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The Bombay Gazette.

No. 50,887—NEW SERIES. BOMBAY:—TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1897.

THE INDIAN RAILWAY TRAVELLERS' GUIDE.

THE BEST AND MOST COMPLETE GUIDE IN INDIA.

Time and Fare Tables of all Indian Railways, Steam Boats, and Daks. Places of interest Inland and along the Coast, Postal and Telegraphic information, &c., &c.

COLOURED MAP OF INDIA.

"Bombay Gazette" Press, Fort, Bombay.

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SHIPPING.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY.

DEPARTURES FOR EUROPE.

SATURDAY, 2 P.M.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	
B.I. ORIENTAL	5284	L. H. Moule	9th Jan.
* SHANNON	4158	E. Crewe	16th "
M.* CALEDONIA	7588	W. B. Andrews	23rd "
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. De Horne	30th "
M.L. PENINSULAR	3287	W. A. Wheler	6th Feb.
* SHANNON	4158	E. Crewe	13th "
M.* INDIA	6069	R. F. Briscoe	20th "
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. DeHorne	27th "
M.L. CALEDONIA	7588	W. B. Andrews	6th March.
* SHANNON	4158	E. Crewe	13th "
M.* AUSTRALIA	6301	I. Reeves	20th "
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. DeHorne	27th "
M.L. INDIA	6060	R. F. Briscoe	3rd April.
* SHANNON	4158	E. Crewe	10th "
M.L. PENINSULAR	3287	W. A. Wheler	17th "
* CARTHAGE	5198	M. De Horne	24th "
M.L. AUSTRALIA	6301	L. Reeves	1st May.
* SHANNON	4158	E. Crewe	8th "
M.L. CALEDONIA	7588	W. B. Andrews	15th "

The Steamers marked B. L. proceed to BRINDISI, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, PLYMOUTH, and LONDON.

The Steamers marked * proceed to Aden only, and Passengers transhipp there to a Steamer for BRINDISI and LONDON.

The Steamers marked M.L. proceed to MARSEILLES and LONDON, passengers for BRINDISI transhipping at Port Said.

Steamers marked M* proceed to Marseilles only, and passengers cannot be booked to London by long sea route by these vessels, but passengers for Brindisi can transhipp at Port Said.

The Steamers marked thus † proceed to Aden only, and passengers transhipp there to a steamer for Brindisi, Marseilles, and London.

Heavy Baggage must be sent to the P. and O. Dockyard, at Mazagon, before 9 A.M., on the day of sailing.

A Steam Tender leaves the Ballard Pier, at noon, on the day of sailing to convey Passengers on board, and only hand Packages will be received. The attention of Passengers is called to the importance of having their Baggage labelled with Port of Destination.

TO COLOMBO, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND.

The Company's STEAMERS LEAVE BOMBAY FORTNIGHTLY, usually on WEDNESDAYS, taking Passengers for COLOMBO, AUSTRALIA, the STRAITS, CHINA, and JAPAN, and Return Tickets are issued on Favourable terms.

Cargo Steamers are despatched to China at frequent intervals, calling at Ports Enroutes.

For further particulars apply to

I. M. SHIELDS, Superintendent, P. & O. S. N. Company.

Bombay, 28th December, 1896.

AUSTRIAN LLOYD'S S.N.Co.

UNDER MAIL CONTRACT WITH THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT.

ACCELERATED SERVICE TO BRINDISI AND TRIESTE, *VIA* ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Steamer.	Captain.	Tons.	H.P.	To Sail on
IMPERATRIX	T. Rassevich.	4,194	750	1st Feb. 1897.
IMPERATOR	G. Nicolich..	4,119	750	1st Mar. 1897.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.	Deck
TRIESTE, VENICE, Or BRINDISI	Rs. 600	Rs. 325	Rs. 150

Steamers for BOMBAY leave TRIESTE on the 3rd, and BRINDISI on the 4th of each month.

A Surgeon and Stewardess on board of every Steamer.

ORDINARY SERVICE TO TRIESTE, *VIA* KURRACHEE, ADEN, SUEZ, AND PORT SAID.

Steamers.	Captain.	Tons.	H.P.	To Sail on
GISELA	G. de Grisogono	4,233	350	7th Jan.
MARQUIS BACQUEHEM	G. Costanzo	4,409	350	7th Feb.

RATES OF PASSAGE MONEY BY THIS ROUTE.

	2nd Class.	Deck.
TRIESTE or VENICE	Rs. 375	Rs. 160

STEAMERS for BOMBAY LEAVE TRIESTE on the 20th of each month.

A Surgeon and a Stewardess on board of every Steamer.

RETURN TICKETS

By either Accelerated or Ordinary Service to TRIESTE.

	1st Class.	2nd Class.
AVAILABLE for 6 MONTHS	Rs. 960	Rs. 575
AVAILABLE for 12 MONTHS	Rs. 1060	Rs. 625

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1st and 2nd Class Single and Return are issued via Trieste, the St. Gothard's, and other Routes.

In connection with the Steamers' Tickets the Company issue now Railway Tickets to the Principal Towns of Austria and Germany, as well as Tickets by steamers of the "Nord-deutscher Lloyd" (North German Lloyd) to ports of North and South America, Australia, &c., called at by their vessels.

STEAM TO COLOMBO, PENANG, SINGAPORE, HONGKONG, SHANGHAI, AND KOBE.

Steamer	Captain.	Tons.	H.P.	To Sail on
MARIA VALERIE	A. Feilner	4,235	50	21st Jan., 1897.

Connecting at Colombo with the s.s. AGLAIA to Madras Calcutta.

For further Particulars, Freight, Passage, &c., apply to

E. SCARPA, Acting Agent.

Sassoon House, 50, Church Gate Street, Bombay, Jan 1, 1897.

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL STEAMERS.

Under Contract with the French Government

DEPARTURES TO MARSEILLES, DIRECT, *VIA* ADEN, SUEZ & PORT SAID.

Vessels.	Tons.	Captains.	To Sail on Saturday, at noon.
YARRA	4255	Flandin	23rd Jan. 1897.
SYDNEY	4232	Aubert	20th Feb. "
CALEDONIEN	4222	Blanc	20th Mar. "
MELBOURNE	4080	Duchateau	17th April "

DEPARTURES TO COLOMBO, SINGAPORE, JAVA, SAIGON, TONQUIN, CHINA, JAPAN, AND AUSTRALIA.

Vessel.	Capt.	Tons.	To sail on or about
OCEANIEN	Schmitz	4,949	14th Jan. 97

Four weekly departures thereafter.

Passengers for Australia Transhipp at Colombo.

A steam launch from Ballard Pier will convey Passengers on Board. Heavy baggage to be sent on board on the day of departure between 8 and 10 a.m.

The S.S. "PERSEPOLIS," Captain Etienne, WILL LEAVE BOMBAY for KURRACHEE and PERSIAN GULF on or about the 13th January 1897,

N.B.—RETURN TICKETS TO MARSEILLES for four six and twelve months delivered at specially REDUCED RATES.

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SPECIAL ATTENTION given to the selection of berths and Social Grouping of Passengers.

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PASSENGERS with COOK'S Tickets met and assisted at all Chief Continental Ports and Cities.

REDUCED RATES to Railway employes, Family Parties and Missionaries.

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SOVEREIGNS, BANK NOTES, and Foreign money bought and supplied. CURRENT ACCOUNTS kept, and Interest allowed when the Credit Balance does not fall below Rs. 1,000

DEPOSITS received. Rate of interest on application.

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BOMBAY: 13, Esplanade Road.

CALCUTTA: Old Court House.

THE BRITISH INDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY (LIMITED).

Intend to despatch Steamers as follows:—

FOR KURRACHEE DIRECT.

S. S. "DWARKA," 1,695 tons on the 9th January at 2 p.m. or later if English mail is later in arriving.

FOR KURRACHEE VIA KATHIAWAR COAST PORTS AND MANDAVIE.

S. S. "DUMRA," 1,695 tons, on the 5th Jan., at 10 a.m., calling at Veraval, Mangrole, Porebunder and Cutch Mandvi, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR KURRACHEE AND PERSIAN GULF.

S. S. "KHANDALLA," 2,040 tons, on the 7th January, at noon, calling at Kurrachee, Jask, Bunder Abbas, Linga, Bahrein, Bushire, Fao, and Bussrah, in the foregoing or any order. (Weather permitting.)

FOR COAST AND CALCUTTA.

S. S. "ELLORA," 1,996 tons, on or about 14th Jan., at 7 a.m.

FOR SEYCHELLES, MOMBASSA, ZANZIBAR, AND DELAGOA BAY.

S. S. "NOWSHERA," 3,024 tons, on or about 18th Jan., calling at Seychelles, Mombassa, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Beira, Inhambane and Delagoa Bay.

MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & Co., Agents.

Bombay, 4th January, 1897.

KING, KING & CO.,

BANKERS AND EAST INDIA AGENTS, BOMBAY.

PASSAGES engaged by P. & O. and all Steamers at the lowest rates obtainable free of charge or Commission.

Lists of the LATEST SAILINGS, with Fares and full information as to berths available, furnished at once.

Special attention paid to the grouping of those wishing to travel 2nd Class, P. & O. Every assistance rendered to Passengers arriving in Bombay for embarkation. Baggage taken over at the Railway Stations and shipped.

THROUGH RAILWAY TICKETS from any Station in India to Bombay, and Tickets for all Continental Routes furnished on application.

SPECIAL AGENTS of the Firm meet all Steamers at BRINDISI and MARSEILLES.

PACKAGES of every description received for despatch as CARGO to Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., London; or Messrs. King, Baillie & Co., Liverpool. Freight and Marine Insurance effected at the Lowest Rates. QUOTATIONS FURNISHED on APPLICATION.

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CALCUTTA.

HENRY S. KING & Co., LONDON.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA LINE.

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THE following Steamer will SAIL:—

Vessel.	Captain.	Tons.	To Sail
SETOS	Jacobs	1,746	8th January.

taking Cargo and Passengers for LAMU, MOMBASSA, TANGA, etc., etc.

This Line also issue first, second, third-class and deck through tickets to—

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in connection with the Union Line Mail Steamers from Delagoa Bay, once a month.

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Bombay, 7th November, 1896.

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BOMBAY.

GRINDLAY & CO., CALCUTTA.

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HOMEWARD PASSAGES booked without charge and on the most favourable terms. Berth carefully selected, with special attention to grouping.

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TREACHER'S CHLORINE POWDERS.

An Easy and Cheap method of producing this Gas. ONE POWDER is sufficient to thoroughly disinfect 1,000 cubic feet of Air.

Per Packet of 6 Powders Re. 1-8-0.

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Sole Speciality.—

IMPROVED MATCH-MAKING MACHINERY.

Of latest pattern and highest capacity. Three factories already installed in India, many others over all the world. Special experience in manufacturing matches in tropical countries.

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F. BOMANN, M. E.

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HEART LABELLED BRANDIES.

SPECIAL INVALID	Cash. Rs. a.	Credit. Rs. a.
Fifteen Years' Old	82 0	91 8
THREE STAR ***		
A Fine Old Pale Cognac	52 8	58 8
TWO STAR **		
Choice and Well-matured	45 8	51 0
ONE STAR *		
A Capital Peg Brandy	39 8	44 0

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BOMBAY. BYCULLA. POONA.

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YOUR CREST, Rs. 20.

Correctly engraved on steel and embossed in colour on 2 Boxes (240 sheets) of Note Paper and 2 Boxes of Envelopes for Twenty Rupees.

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Artistically engraved on steel and embossed in colour on 2 Boxes (240 sheets) of Note Paper and 2 Boxes of Envelopes for Twenty Rupees.

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Dies of all Regiments are on hand. The charge for Embossing from these is the same as for Crest and Monograms supplied by customers, viz:—

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In every instance Pencil Sketches are forwarded for approval before Engraving Steel Dies.

These designs are Free of Charge when an Order is given, otherwise the Preliminary Sketch must be charged for.

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100 Gentlemen's Cards, one line, with plate	4 0
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Engraving Other lines, such as Club, Address, and Regiment, charged Re. 1 per line extra.

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IT having come under our notice that certain people have designated the MALLIE AMIANTHUS PORCELAIN FILTER

An imitation of the Chamberland and not entitled to the use of the name "PASTEUR," we hereby state that such statement is absolutely untrue.

THE MALLIE FILTER has been associated with the name of Pasteur since 1884 and its right to be so formally acknowledged by M. CHAMBERLAND.

THE MALLIE FILTER is made of a totally different material to its rival and whereas the latter gained the famed MONTYON Prix of the Acadamie des Sciences, Paris, in 1885, the distinguished French Scientists awarded it to the Mallie in 1893.

Send for Illustrated Pamphlet and read result of tests by eminent Bactericlogists.

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SOLE CONSIGNEES FOR INDIA, BURMAH AND CEYLON.

LOCAL AGENTS. } BEYNON & CO., { BOMBAY AND POONA.

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WINES, SPIRITS, PROVISIONS, AND GENERAL MERCHANTS,

PURVEYORS TO

H. E. THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

HAVE Unpacked several Packages consisting of all the LATEST NOVELTIES suitable for

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

The PURVEYING DEPARTMENT is now replete with all fresh English and French Oilmenstores of known make.

WINES, SPIRITS, and LIQUEURS of all kinds.
TOYS of numerous kinds, Moderately priced.
DOLLS, the Largest Collection to Select from.
DIAMOND, GOLD, and SILVER JEWELLERY.
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LATEST MEDALS:—Gold Medal, Empire of India Exhibition, London, 1895.

Gold Medal, Empire of India Exhibition, London, 1896.

FRIENDS IN ENGLAND SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN AT 'XMAS TIME.

What more welcome PRESENT could be thought of than a HAMPER of REALLY CHOICE CIGARS, such as the favourite

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IT IS a SIGNIFICANT FACT, despite the proverb that a prophet has no honour in his own country, that it is precisely in France and along the Riviera, where this Brand enjoys the greatest popularity, commanding, in short, the highest price in the Market. Rs. 2-4 per bottle of D. C. COMRIGUR, D. D. BANNA, M. P. BARIA, J. N. GAZDAR, E. B. LAKDAWALA and J. F. KATHOKE, and other Licensed Wine and Spirit Merchants.

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ASSETS.....£2,400,000 PREMIUM INCOME.....£250,000 INTEREST INCOME £100,000

Military and Naval Lives Assured at Special Terms.
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Encaustic Tiles, Plain Glazed Tiles, Flooring Tiles.

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A LARGE DELIVERY OF ALL WOOL SOAP SHRUNK SAXONY FLANNELS.

SUIT Rs. 35. COAT, VEST AND TROUSERS.

CHOICE PATTERNS.

SPLENDID VALUE.

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G. I. P. Ry. ANNUAL SPORTS,
PAREL GYMKHANA.
In connection with the above
A CALICO DANCE
will be held on the Ground
ON MONDAY, the 11th JANUARY.
Tickets to be had of the Committee or
A. SAWYERS,
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Costume, Gent. and 2 Ladies Evening Dress ... ... } Extra Ladies, Re 1.

ARMY & NAVY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LTD.
London, Plymouth, Bombay, and Karachi.
10 PER CENT. DISCOUNT.

ON and from 4th January, 1897, and until further notice, a DISCOUNT of 10 per cent. will be allowed for RISE in EXCHANGE on GENERAL GOODS, instead of the 5 per cent. that has been ruling since February last, and of 5 per cent. instead of the 2½ per cent. on Arms, Ammunition, Beers, Wines, Spirits, and Perfumery.

A NEW PRICE-LIST for the Bombay Depot, JUST PUBLISHED, will be supplied free to Members.

GENERAL MANAGER.
January, 1897.

R. SCOTT & CO., M. R. C. V. S.,
GIRGAUM VETERINARY AND COMMISSION STABLES.
OLDEST ESTABLISHED FIRM IN BOMBAY.

CHARGERS, Polo Ponies, Hacks and Carriage, Horses Selected for local and Up-country constituents. Horses Shod on the most approved principles, under Personal Supervision.

Horses broken to single (Rs 15), and double Harness (Rs. 30) and Saddle (Rs 15), Raw Walers Charged extra. Horses standing on Commission Sale, or for treatment—

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At Livery, including Syce, per mensem	35 0
Commission on Horses Bought or Sold	17 0
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Crushed Horse food, best in the market, per cwt. Rs. 6
Special mixtures Crushed Oats, Bran, etc., supplied.

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AT present our Supply comprises the prettiest collection in the World of this form of ORNAMENT. The style of setting of a few is quite "ORIENTAL." The application of the term Oriental conveys an idea of crude workmanship to many minds; but we beg to state that our collection though suggesting crudity in an appreciable form as far as fashion is concerned, is made up of the finest and most finished workmanship. Better value is not obtainable in any Establishment at Bombay, Native or European. Quality for Quality our prices will be found the lowest in Bombay. For the finest Qualities in Diamonds, Rubies, Emeralds, Sapphire, Turquoises, etc., etc.

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MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & Co., No. 4, FORBES & MEDOWS STREETS, FORT.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO INVESTORS.
AUCTION SALE OF VERY VALUABLE LANDED PROPERTY AND BUNGALOWS AT VERSOVA, CLOSE TO THE SEASHORE.

Under instructions from Mr. Ruttonjee Dossabhai Karani, the owner of the property, Messrs. MEHERJEE, JOHNSTON and Co., Auctioneers, will, in different lots as hereafter described, itself by Public Auction, on SUNDAY, the 10th January, 1897, at 2 p.m., if not sold privately before the Sales by auction the undermentioned valuable properties at the spot, where the properties are situate. The bungalows and buildings are all open to the sea breeze, and most of them have been quite recently built and are very well situated. They are only 15 minutes' drive from the Andheri Station of the B. B. & C. I. Railway.

LOT NO. 1.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 4,000 square yards, and bounded on the east by Lot No 2, and a private passage on the west by Survey No. 82, and beyond it the seashore, on the north by Lot No. 3, and on the south by Lot No. 5.

LOT NO. 2.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow or building thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova, near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 3,381 square yards and bounded on the east by the public road, on the west by Lot No. 1, on the north by Lot No. 4, and on the south by a private passage, and beyond that also another private passage leading to Lot No. 5, and beyond that Lot No. 7.

LOT NO. 3.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 4,250 square yards and bounded on the east by Lot No. 4, on the west by a part of Survey No. 82, and beyond it the seashore, on the north by the property of Hajee Mahomed Khimjee, and on the south by Lot No. 1.

LOT NO. 4.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow or buildings thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 3,252 square yards, and bounded on the east by a public road, on the west by Lot No. 3, on the north by a private passage leading to Lot No. 3, and beyond that the property of Mahomed Khimjee, and on the south by Lot No. 2.

LOT NO. 5.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 2,300 square yards, and bounded on the east by Lot No. 7, on the west by a part of Survey No. 82, and beyond it the seashore, on the north by Lot No. 1, and on the south by Lot No. 6.

LOT NO. 6.

All that piece of Government leasehold land with a bungalow thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 1,800 square yards, and bounded on the east by the public road, on the west by a part of Survey No. 82, and beyond it the seashore, on the north by Lots No. 5 and 7, and on the south by a part of Survey No. 82, and beyond that the seashore.

LOT NO. 7.

All that piece of Government leasehold land, together with a bungalow or building thereon, situate near the seashore at Versova near Andheri, being part of Survey No. 82, admeasuring about 1,700 square yards, and bounded on the east by the public road, on the west by Lot No. 5, on the north by a private passage leading to Lot No. 5, and on the south by Lot No. 6.

Lots Nos. 2, 4, and 7, each consisting of two compartments, each will if convenient be put up for sale in two different lots each consisting of one compartment.

If the sale of the Lots is not completed on the 10th January, 1897, the sale will be continued the next day, at 2 p. m.

Two or more lots will to be put up together if advisable.

The lots might not be sold in the order in which they are described above.

If the bidders wish, and if the Auctioneers think fit, any lot might be sold before any other or others.

For further particulars, plan and conditions of sale, application may be made to Messrs. Pestonjee, Rustim, and Kola, Attorneys for the vendor, or to the undersigned.

SALE OF A VALUABLE SALT-PAN AT SION.

Under instructions from the mortgagee, Mr. Anandrao Narayan Vasudevjee, and on account and at the risk of the mortgagor, Mr. Shapurjee Rustomjee Mistry, the undersigned will sell by Public Auction, at the premises, at 3 p.m., on WEDNESDAY, the 20th instant, the Agar or Salt-pan, called the Narayan Agar, &c., comprised in and mortgaged to the said Anandrao Narayan Vasudevjee by an indenture of mortgage, dated the 30th day of June, 1892, and described as under :—

All that piece or parcel of Government leasehold land, situate at Sion in the Matunga District in the Island of Bombay, known as the Narayan Agar, and bounded on the east partly by the Mahwal creek, and partly by the salt works belonging to the Mahwal District, on the west by the salt works called Salamaty and Bharpur, on the north partly by a strip of marshy land called Shilkhadi and partly by the land covered by water forming part of the salt work called Salamaty, and on the south by marshy land called Kharlan, belonging to Government, registered by the Collector of Land Revenue under new Survey No.— and situate within the registration subdistrict of Bombay at Matunga, and which said land admeasures about 348,000 square yards, with the said premises were formerly in the possession of the said Shapurjee Rustomjee Mistry, and are now in the possession of the said Anandrao Narayen Vasudevjee as the mortgagee in possession. And all erections, buildings, embankments, bridges, works, salt-pans, and fixtures, &c., standing thereon, which have been now erected, made or attached thereto, or are in course of erection on the said land or premises, together with all rights, easements, and appurtenances belonging thereto and also the full benefit of the covenant and of all other covenants, provisos, conditions, stipulations, and declarations which may be contained in the lease of the said land and premises.

For further particulars and conditions of sale, application should be made to the mortgagee's Attorneys, Messrs. Chitnis, Motilal and Maiwi, or to the undersigned.

MEHRJEE, JOHNSTON & CO.
Bombay, 5th January, 1897.

NOTICES.

COMMERCIAL BANK OF INDIA, LIMITED.

DIVIDEND WARRANTS at 10 per cent. per annum, free of Income Tax, for Quarter ending 31st December, 1896, WILL BE DRAWN in favour of SHAREHOLDERS borne on the Register of the Bank on that date, and Distribution thereof made on the 15th January, 1897.

The Warrants are in course of preparation, for which purpose the Register of Members of the Company will remain closed from the 1st to 8th proximo, inclusive, agreeably with the provision contained in Clause 40 of the Bank's Articles.

By Order of the Board,
E. F. STRANACK,
Secretary and Treasurer.
Madras, January 1, 1897.

NOTICE.

THE INTEREST and RESPONSIBILITY of Mr. NARANDAS PURSHOTAMDAS CEASED in our Firm from the 6th day of November, 1896, and Mr. RAMDAS NARANDAS has been ADMITTED a PARTNER from THAT DAY.

NARANDAS RAJARAM & Co.
Bombay, 1st January, 1897.

H. H. THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

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Each item to be tendered for separately.

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Forms of Tenders can be had on application at his office on payment of one Government Rupee.

The successful Tenderer or Tenderers will have to deposit Security in Government paper or in Cash to the extent of five per cent. of the value of the Contract.

The Agent and Manager does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

RICHARD ROBERTS,
Storekeeper.
Storekeeper's Office, Secunderabad, 23rd December 1896.

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	Shares.	Amount.	Paid-up.	Last Half-Yearly Divid.	Cash Rate.
INDIAN BANKS.		Rs.	Rs.		
Bank of Bombay	30,000	500	all	10 p. c. 1 bon.	1,330
Bank of Bengal	40,000	500	all	10 pr. ct.	300
Bank of Madras	10,000	500	all	10 pr. ct.	1,315
Commercial & Ld. Mge ...	12,000 / 15,000	100	100 / 75	10. c. c.	145
EXCHANGE BANKS.					
Agra ...	100,000	£10	all	5 pr. ct.	30
Chartered Bank ...	48,000	£20	£20	7 pr. ct.	£27
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	80,000	$125	all	£1-5s.	£11
National Bank of India ...	40,000	£25	£12½	6 pr. ct.	300
SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPANIES				Half year.y	
Alli ance ...	1,500	1,100	all		56
Anglo-Indian ...	1,316		100	Nil	52
Arrangabad S. & M. Co. Ld.	6 8	1,000	1,000	60	1,000
Bellary S & W Co. Ld (Bellary) ...	371	60	all	9 per ct.	290
Bombay Union ed ...	900	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.40	710
Bombay Union Manfg. Co	900	500	500	dvd Rs.30	570
Bombay National Manfg. Co. Ld ...	500	1,000	1,000	...	690
Britannia Mills ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.40	675
Central India ...	1,000	500	500	dvd Rs.50	1,000
China Mills Co Ld ...	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	770
City of Bombay Mills ...	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.5)	1,020
Coimbatore S and W ...	6,000	100	100	9 per ct.	125
Currumchoy Mills ...	800	500	500	25	735
Colaba Land & Mills ...	1,000	700	...	dvd Rs12	600
Coorla Mills ...	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	550
Currumchoy Mill ...	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.60	1,000
David Mill ...	1,400	500	500	dvd Rs.30	525
Dhun Mills ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	20	505
Empress ...	2,100	500	500	dvd 25	600
Framjee Petit Industan ...	1,250	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.30	580
Hingunghat Mills ...	575	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs15	680
Howard and Ballonaire ...	700	500	500	40	670
Hope Mills ...	1,500	500	500	25	700
Hyderabad ...	500	1,000	1,000	50	575
Imperial Cotton ...	700	1,000	1,000	40	1,400
Indian Manfg. ...	900	500	500	dvd Rs.15	505
Indo-China Manufacturing Co., Ld ...	900	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	1,210
James Greaves ...	1,100	500	500	30	700
Jaffer Alli ...	900	500	500	dvd Rs.20	225
Jamshed Manufacturing Co. ...	1,800	250	250	dvd Rs.10	227½
Jeevraj Balloo ...	2,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.30	975
Jubilee Mills Co., Ld ...	843	1,000	1,000	20	525
Khandesh ...	750	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs30	705
Khanguan Manfg. Co ...	400	250	250	Nil	850
Khatao Mookunjee ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs35	765
Loop ...	1,000	100	100	dvd Rs.10	269
Lord Reay Mfg	645	1,000	1,000	30	800
Lukmidas Spinning & Weaving Co ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs.50	1,095
Madura United ...	356	1,000	1,000	dvRs.100	3,000
Mahalaxmee ...	800	1,000	1,000	Nil	500
Mahboob Shah Mills (Gulbarga) ...	2,400	500	500	15 pr ct	...
Manockjee Petit ...	4,000	1,000	1,000	dv Rs100	2,120
Managon ...	4,000	250	250	dvd Rs 5	127½
Moraji Goculdas ...	1,050	1,000	1,000	dvdRs75	2,180
Mysore S & M Co Ld ...	4,000	250	250	dvd 15	250
Madura Mills ...	7,719	100	100	Nil	Par
National ...	600	1,000	1,000	Nil	525
New Great Eastern ...	1,400	1,000	1,000	Rs 20	460
Oriental ...	6,725	625	625	dvdRs20	350
Presidency Mills Co (Ld) ...	743	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs50	1,250
Queen Mills ...	800	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs 60	840
Ripon Mills ...	600	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs60	1,210
Sassoon ...	1,400	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs50	1,050
Sholapore Mills ...	600	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs60	1,250
Soonderdas ...	750	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs40	850
Southern India ...	1,000	500	500	15	125
Southern Mahratta ...	1,212	250	250	dvRs 12½	355
Sun Mills, Ld ...	1,300	250	250	dvd Rs 20	475
Standard Mills Co. ...	1,600	500	500	25	350
Star of India ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	Nil	650
Swadeshi Mills ...	475	500	500	dvd Rs15	600
Sassoon and Alliance ...	1,000	00	500	dvdRs15	690
Union Spinning and Manufacturing Co ...	900	1,000	1,000	40	42
Union Mills Ld	00	1,000	1,000	dvdRs30	900
Vanishunker Lakshmunker C Mill Co Ld ...	900	500	900	dvdRs40	4 Oct.
Victoria Mills ...	550	1,000	1,000	Nil	450
Western India ...	1,200	1,000	1,000	dvdRs50	790
Wasna Mills ...	1,200	1,000	1,000	...	...
PRESS COMPANIES.				Yearly	
Akbar ...	200	1,250	1,250	75	1,150
Albert Ginning Co ...	100	500	all	18 pr. ct.	45
Albert (Kurrachee) ...	200	1,100	1,100	Rs 80	1,150
Bellary ...	167	1,000	1,000	dvd 14 x	225
Bhownugger City Press & Manfg Co, Ld	550	250	250	25	275
Bombay Cotton Broui s Cawnpore Press Co., Ld ...	1,000	125	125	dv Rs12½	155
Bombay Press ...	500	200	200	14	187½
Broach City Press Co., Ld	600	200	200	dvdRs25	230
Colaba ...	600	1,389	1,389	dvdRs15	305
East India ...	550	1,000	1,000	75	1,375
English Press and Manfg ...	400	200	...	dvd Rs 8	95
Fort ...	150	2,500	500	dvd Rs30	1000
French ...	300	500	500	dvdRs30	540
Harvey and Sabapathy ...	450	450	500	dvdRs10	350
Hingoli Press Co., Ld ...	700	100	100	dvd Rs11	135
Khangaum ...	240	450	450	Rs10	530
Mahuva Press Co., Ld ...	300	200	all	15 pr. ct.	255
Mahmadpura Cotton G. and P. Co., Ld. ...	300	500	500	53	95
Mercantile ...	1,000	125	125	dvd Rs4	75
Motisetl Co ...	3,125	400	400	dvd Rs20	345
Munmar M ...	1,000	250	11	15	210
New Beraz ...	1,200	500	500	dvd Rs60	0
New Indian ...	4,000	125	125	dvd Rs 9	133
Prince of Wales ...	180	500	500	25	475
Sahapathy (Bellary) ...	500	500	75	20	385
Sassoon ...	300	500	500	20	585
Sind and Punjab Co ...	100	1,000	1,000	200	2,250
Sind ...	400	2,000	750	50	520
Surab Woollen Mills ...	1,200	250	250	Nil	75
Surat City Press Co., Ld.	370	200	all	12	230
Volkart ...	...	1,000	10	dvd Rs65	1,08
RAILWAY COMPANIES.				Guar.	
G.I.P.R. Consolidated stock ...	...	£100	all	5 p. c.	
S. B. & C. I. R. ...	...	£ 18	...	c.	
Ahmedabad Prantej ...	4,000	500	400		475
The Tapti Valley ...	26,000	500	50	...	62
MISCELLANEOUS.				Half yearly	
Alcock Ashdown ...	1,750	100	100	dvd Rs 5	325
Asiatic Fire Insurance Co Ld	...	1,000	100	7½	115
Back Bay Baths ...	500	30	60	1½	50
Badham Pile ...	5,000	100	100	12	156
Bombay & Burma Trading Corporation ...	1,000	2,500	1,500	300	6,550
Do. New Issue ...	600	375	225	75	1,650
Bombay Ice Mfg. Co., Ld.	2,250	100	100	dvd 3	6
Bombay Land and Building Co, Ld. ...	600	500	500	5 pr. ct.	50
Bombay Flour Mill ...	720	500	500	50	1,20
Deccan Paper Mills ...	1,000	500	500	5 pr. ct.	250
Delhi and Northern India Flour Mills ...	1,800	200	200	dvd Rs16	
Delhi Cloth & General Mills Co., Ld. ...	2,300	250	250	8 pr. ct.	375
Indian Guarantee Surety Ship Assn ...	5,000	100	10	10 pr. ct.	17
John Roberts & Co ...	1,500	100	100	10 pr. ct.	207
Kemp & Co. ...	4,000	200	175	21	357
Kurrachee Landing ...	600	500	300	30	200
Maroks & Co., Ld ...	4,000	100	100	dvd Rs15	182
Napier Hotel Co	2,000	100	100	9 pr. ct.	40
Naylor Foundry ...	1,000	100	200	...	60
Oriental Govt. Security Life Insurance ...	5,000	200	50	12 pr. ct.	160
Phillips & Co., Ld ...	4,000	100	100	dvd Rs.6	94
Port Canning Co ...	3,000	1,000	1,000	dvd Rs20	477½
Soondy & Co...	1,000	100	100	9	50
Treacher & Co	2,000	500	25	60	1,070
Thacker & Co. ...	1,500	100	100	135	145
Telephone Co. ...	9,2001	251	100	dvd Rs11	29½

PRICES OF BULLION, &c.

English Gold ...	Rs. 25-9	
Gold Leaf ...	,, 25-10	Nom
Pekin, bar Gold, old ...	,, 24-13	,,
Do. do. new ...	,, 24-11	,,
Australia bar Gold ...	,, 24-14	
Bombay bar Gold ...	,, 24-12	
Sovereigns ...	,, 16-0	
Do. Dreamos ...	,, 15-15	
Silver 17 ...	,, 84-4	
Do. 17½ ...	,, 84-8	

BOMBAY.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises, 6h. 35m. Sun sets 5h. 36m. High water, 0-43m., 0-39s. Low water, 6-55m., 6-22s.

Meeting of Khojas re Special Fever Hospital, Khoja Mohalla, 10-30 a.m.

Bombay Light Horse Parade, 6-45 a.m.

Dr. R. N. Ranina's lecture, Outbreak of Bubonic Disease in Bombay, Framji Cowasji Hall, 5-30 p.m.,

Gaiety Theatre, Stewart's Vitagraph, 6-30 p.m.

A MAHOMEDAN FESTIVAL.—The annual Khoja festival, held in connection with the birthday of Emam Hoosein, will take place, to-day, at the Khoja Jamatkhana, and will continue till to-morrow evening.

CHRISTMAS TREAT TO THE CHILDREN OF THE BOMBAY POLICE.—The annual Christmas treat to the children of members of the Bombay City Police Club, came off yesterday afternoon, in the compound of the old Police Offices, Byculla. The compound was enclosed and decorated with flags and buntings for the occasion. The children were provided with light refreshment in the afternoon, and in the evening prizes were distributed by lots. The treat was very much appreciated by the young folks, who went home quite jolly.

FIRE AT DE LISLE ROAD.—About half-past 1 o'clock yesterday morning, a cadjan shed, used for stabling buffaloes, and belonging to one Syid Hoosain Alli Meer Khaim Ali, at De Lisle Road, was found to be on fire. The fire-brigade stations were communicated with, but before the DeLisle Road manual turned up, the whole shed was enveloped in flames. It was consumed in a few minutes. The Municipal steam-engines from the Central Fire Brigade station and Chinchpoogly also arrived in time, but they were not brought into requisition as the manual was found capable to check the flames, which were put out in about twenty minutes. The damage is estimated at Rs. 200. The origin of the conflagration is not at present known.

OBITUARY.—A correspondent writes:—Another fatal case of bubonic fever has occurred in Bhor Bhat Lane, Girgaum, Mr. Dinanathjee Moroba Shet succumbed early yesterday morning. Mr. Dinanathjee is the third son of the late Moroba Narayen Shet, the cashier of Messrs. Payne, Gilbert and Sayani. He is uncle of Mr. Bhaskerao B. Pitale, who lost, last Monday, his sister, and a few weeks before, his nephew. Mr. Dinanathjee was exceedingly popular, and was of a kind disposition. Great sympathy is therefore felt for the deceased, and the funeral was well attended. He leaves behind him surviving his afflicted widow, three sons, Messrs. Vasantrao, Ramrao and Khanderao, five daughters, two brothers, and a large family circle to deplore his loss.

DROWNED IN THE SEA.—An inquiry was held, yesterday, at Worlee, by Mr. Turner, the coroner, on view of the body of Ghutoo Shranan, a fisherman, aged sixty years, residing at Danda, near Bandora. At 6 o'clock, on the evening of Tuesday, the 29th ultimo, deceased and his son, Boadhia, aged about thirty years, left in a tony from Danda to fish. They were sailing off Malabar Hill, when the tony capsized, and the father and son drowned. The deceased's body was found on Sunday afternoon lying amongst the rocks on the foreshore, near the Worlee pumping station, by one Toolsia Pandoo, who informed the police. The body was much decomposed, but there were no external marks of violence on it. On the information being circulated, the body was identified by the deceased's wife as that of her husband. The body of the son has not yet been recovered. A verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury.

RATANSI MULJI CHARITABLE DISPENSARY, FORT.—During the month of December last, the number of Hindu patients treated in this dispensary was 1,966, among whom the number of new admissions was 418, classified as stated below:—

Castes.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Bhattias ...	28	3	10	41
Vanias ...	39	20	37	96
Brahmins ...	77	23	13	113
Lohanas ...	4	1	1	6
Other Castes ...	113	23	25	161
Total ...	261	70	87	418

The average daily attendance was 63.

JAMNADAS JIVANDAS CHARITABLE DISPENSARY, PORBUNDER.—During the month of December last, the number of patients treated in this dispensary was 3,491, among whom the number of new admissions was 817, classified as stated below:—

Castes.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Hindu ...	231	160	222	613
Mussalman ...	42	19	61	122
Parsee ...	3	2	7	12
Other Castes ...	..	...	...	...
Total ...	276	181	360	817

The average daily attendance was 112·6.

THE GRAIN-TRADING COMPANY.—Messrs. Govindji Thackerji Mooljt and Harundas Porshotumdas, under whose auspices this company has been established, have ordered out about 3,000 tons of Californian maize, which cargo is expected to arrive here about the end of this month. While the Indian wheat, at the present time, is quoted at Rs. 56 per candy, the American maize is laid down here at Rs. 28 per candy. In the present season of scarcity, if the poor people of this country were to use the maize instead of the wheat, the severity will be less felt. With the view of testing whether it will suit the tastes of the natives, Mr. Govindji had several dishes made of it and gave them to his friends, who, after partaking of them, pronounced them to be superior to wheat, as it has more of sacharine substance in it than the latter. It is expected, therefore, that there will be a great demand for the American maize in future, and Mr. Govindji intends to do a good business in this staple for the benefit of the poor masses of the Presidency.

A SYSTEMATIC THIEF.—Before Mr. W. R. Hamilton, Second Presidency Magistrate, at the Mazagon Police Court, yesterday, Inspector Todman prosecuted Joseph Francis, a Native Christian, lately a servant in the employ of Mr. Rallie, of the Sassoon and Alliance Silk Mill, on a charge of dishonestly receiving and concealing stolen property, viz., two flower vases, valued at Rs. 1-8, belonging to Mr. N. Hancock, a Government pensioner, residing at Sankli Street, and also on two charges of having in his possession seven flower vases, valued at Rs. 2-8, a black suit, worth Rs. 50, a metal watch, valued at Rs. 15 and one set of silver studs, of the value of Rs. 1-8, reasonably suspected to have been stolen or fraudulently obtained. It appears that the accused and one Mariam Jogiram alias Joseph Francis, who is now undergoing six months' rigorous imprisonment, were systematically committing thefts of property belonging to the residents of Sankli Tank and pledging the plunders with several Marwarees for petty amounts. They continued their nefarious trade for about seven weeks, when, on the evening of the 18th ultimo, Mariam was arrested, on suspicion, by a servant of Dr. Marriott near the Sankli Tank and taken before Inspector Todman. The servant charged the accused with stealing his two warm coats, valued at Rs. 5, from his master's place; but, on searching his person, nothing was found on him at the time. Mariam was taken in custody, and, during the course of the police inquires, he made certained statements and took the police to a Marwaree, named Hukma Kooma at Kannatipura. The Marwaree, on being questioned by the police, produced a copper plate, valued at Rs. 5, which had been pledged with him by the accused for Re. 1, and which was subsequently identified to be the property of Mr. Renard, of Sankli Tank. A clock, valued at Rs. 10, belonging to Mr. Glover, residing at Sankli Tank, which was stolen by Mariam on the 5th December last, was recovered from a Bori, named Akbarali Fazulbhoy, who keeps his shop at Chindhi Bazaar, and with whom it had been pawned by accused for Rs. 2. Mariam then made a further statement, implicating the present accused Joseph, and pointed out some more property which, he said he had stolen in company with Joseph, who had absconded. Mariam was subsequently charged before Mr. W. R. Hamilton with theft and was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment. On certain information received subsequently, Mariam's accomplice was arrested at Igatpuri on the 21st December last, and brought down to Bombay. During the police inquiries, it was ascertained that on the 2nd November last, the two accused went to Mr. Hancock, a Government pensioner, residing at Sankli Street, and offered him for sale two crockery plates. Mr. Hancock refused to purchase them, but while he was in an inner room, Joseph managed to remove two flower vases from a table near the door and handed them to his companion. On the following day, Mariam carried the above flower vases and some crockery to a certain lady residing at Byculla and sold them to her for Rs. 2-4. The lady, on being interrogated by the police, stated that she had bought seven vases from the accused Jogiram, out of which two vases she had already sent to a certain lady at Poona as a Christmas present. The police also recovered a metal watch from a watchrepairer, named Abdul Aziz Mirza Suleman, at Lalwady, Parel, to, whom it had been given by the accused. Some silver studs and silver bangles were also recovered from several Marwarees, to whom they had been pledged by accused. Joseph denied the charges, stating that the property had been stolen by the convict Mariam with whom he had nothing to do and whom he had never accompanied to any place. His Worship sentenced accused to an accumulated term of nine months' rigorous imprisonment.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE Rajkumar of Deghapatiya has placed five thousand rupees at the disposal of Mr. Nolan, Commissioner of Rajshahi, for the relief of distress in that district. He has also intimated that land required on his estates for excavating tanks as relief works will be given free of charge.

A HEAVY fall of snow occurred at Naini Tal on the night of the 30th. On the western side of the Hill the snow lay down the Kaladungi road as far as Mungoli; a thing that has not been known since the very severe weather in the beginnig of 1893.

THE case against the Stewards of the Calcutta Turf Club, in which Mr. Galstaun claims damages in connection with their decision in the "Queenie" case and his removal from the Turf Club enclosure on the Calcutta course, comes up for hearing in the High Court this week. There will be a goodly array of counsel on either side.

THE Durbhunga Cup at the Calcutta Race Meeting on Friday was won by Courallie, who showed excellent form in this race, which is somewhat longer than that for the Viceroy's Cup. Idolater was a close second, the finish being an exciting one. Fortunatus, with the light weight of the party, again ran badly, though receiving 12lb. from the winner.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL S. C. F. PEILE, whose term of office as Inspector-General of Police in Burma has expired, has been permanently appointed to the post.

THE 2nd Battalion Canuaught Rangers reach Bombay from Europe on February 5th and the 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment will arrive from Egypt on February 18th.

THE second Railway Committee, over which the Viceroy will preside, will meet at Simla next summer. All projects except those connected with famine relief will be held over for disposal till then.

MR. G. F. MATHEW, C. I. E., Manager of the Burma State Railway, has been granted leave to Europe on medical certificate. Mr. Innes, Traffic Superintendent, officiates as Manager till the arrival of Mr. F. B. Hebbert, Agent of the line, who leaves Marseilles in the Caledonia on the 2nd January.

SIRDHANA HOUSE, the historic residence of the Begum Sumroo, was put up to auction at Messrs. Fitch and Co.'s office in Meerut on Monday last, and was purchased by Father Philip, Catholic Chaplain of Meerut, on behalf of the acting Archbishop of Agra. The price given for the property was Rs. 25,500.

IN February last a report was published by Dr. Walter Saise on a section of the Palamow coalfield, which he estimated to contain 21,000,000 tons of good serviceable coal, the whole field containing 100,000,000 tons. But Dr. Saise's latest report shows that he underestimated the section in question by nearly one-half, as he now puts its contents at 40,000,000 tons, and those of the whole area at 140,000,000 tons. In addition, says Dr. Saise in a foot-note, there are many millions of tons not considered as useful for locomotive work, but which would give an "ideal fuel for domestic purposes, as it ignites readily, burns easily, and with as little smoke as wood, and leaves a white ash similar to wood." The question, as has already been said, is no longer about the coal but about the market. The supply is there in any quantities, but the demand develops very slowly.

THE season report for last week makes it evident that the recent rain has done much good. In the northern half of the Madras Presidency sowings are now proceeding briskly. In Bombay rain fell in sixteen districts, varying from 6 cents in Sholapur to 1¼ inch at Belgaum and 2 inches at Dharwar. More is still wanted in the Deccan and Carnatic Districts. In Bengal slight rain, in north Behar, Patna, Purneah, and Palamow, on 25th December, somewhat benefited the crops. Nearly 52,000 people are on relief works and over 7,400 are receiving gratuitous relief. In the Punjab up to December 30, the south-eastern districts had received from ¼ to ½ of an inch of rain, while showers fell more to the north. Prospects now are expected to improve. In the Central Provinces the rainfall has been too light generally to effect much improvement in the condition of the crops.

THE Gold Medal of the United Service Institution of London will be awarded this year to the best essay on "the relative advantages and disadvantages of compulsory and voluntary service from a military and national point of view." General Sir Henry Brackenbury is the judge; as there are twenty-eight competitors and their lucubrations average eighty pages of type written foolscap, his office is by no means a sinecure.

THE movement of harvest labourers between Eastern Bengal and Burma this year is on an unprecedented scale. More than a thousand are passing daily along the Arakan Emigration Road moving southwards from Chittagong. Happily, crop prospects in that favoured tract are good: for the outturn is officially estimated at two annas only below the average, while there has been a substantial increase in the area under rice. These people generally return with eighty or a hundred rupees in hard cash as the proceeds of three months' work; but the unusual influx this year must have its effect in lowering wages. It will be necessary to take special measures for supplying drinking water along the route and to provide against possible outbreaks of cholera amongst the returning multitude. The journey homewards will probably be facilitated by the Indian General Steam Navigation Company, always alive to the exigencies of water-traffic: for a trial trip will be run shortly between Noakhali, the great islands at the head of the Bay of Bengal and Cox's Bazaar, the Ultima Thule of the Lower Provinces.

CAPTAIN WELLBY and Mr. Malcolm in their long journey of eight months from Leh to Pekin experienced nothing but civility from the Chinese authorities with whom they came into contact, their passport smoothing over such difficulties as arose; but, as usual, writes the *Pioneer*, the Tibetans jealously blocked the way into the Land of the Lamas. The Lhasa priests seem now to have realised that European travellers generally make a cautious advance from the west, just as Captain Bower did, and trust to their ingenuity to evade stray patrols. In order that the latter may be sufficiently numerous to intercept intruders a fairly large garrison has been established at Rudok, and the officers at this place obtain early information of the approach of a strange caravan. They have sufficient men at their command to overcome by force any opposition that may be offered, and explorers would now probably be roughly handled if they tried to push on after once being forbidden to proceed. Captain Wellby and Mr. Malcolm, with their solitary duffadar of Bengal Cavalry, certainly could not have made their way onward when they were confronted by the Rudok officials, and they had consequently to retrace their steps over the Ha-pu-la, the pass which they had crossed after leaving the Panagong Lake. Their experience will probably not deter others from trying their luck on the Leh-Lhasa route, but we fear that the capital of Tibet will not be reached for many years to come. Mr. and Mrs. Littledale got very close to the capital, but they were stopped eventually. The only good thing that can be said in favour of the Tibetans is that they have not massacred any of the travellers whom they have so persistently turned back. The Lamas do not care to resort to bloodshed, but, all the same, they take effective measures to keep Europeans from entering Lhasa. The wonder is that some affray has not occurred before now, but English explorers generally keep their temper while those of other races follow their example even though their escort may be larger than those which our officers take with them—or rather do not take with them, for an orderly or two cannot be called by that imposing name. In their journey through China proper Captain Wellby and Mr. Malcolm were subjected to the usual close and curious attention of the inhabitants, always anxious to press round the "foreign devils," but they were not annoyed by sulky or overbearing officials. This speaks well for the respect paid to passports granted by the Pekin Government.

INDIAN CROP PROSPECTS.

BENGAL BHADOI CROPS FIRST FORECAST.

CHARACTER of the season.—In the month of April there was an almost entire absence of rainfall in these Provinces, except in East Bengal. In May, showers were of daily occurrence in North and East Bengal, and the monthly fall was in excess of the normal. In South-West Bengal and Bihar the rainfall was practically normal, but in Orissa and Chota Nagpur it was below the normal. Ther ainfall received in June was much more copious in the South than in the North of the Province—a result chiefly due to cyclonic storms in the Southern districts in the latter half of the month. Whereas, in South-West Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur, the rainfall was above the normal; in North Bengal it was less than half the normal, and in Bihar slightly less than the normal. The rainfall in July, though rather irregular, did not differ to a large extent from the normal, except in East Bengal, where the fall was noticeably short. In August, the rainfall was deficient throughout these Provinces, except in Orissa. In the first week of September there was general rain in all parts of these Provinces, except in Bihar, where only light scattered showers were reported. In the second week of September the deficiency of rain continued in parts of Bihar, but the rainfall was general in all other parts of this Province. Floods did injury to the *bhadoi* crops throughout Orissa in July, and again in August.

Area cultivated.—The total area sown with bhadoi crops during the current year appears, from the returns attached to this note, to amount to 15,953,500 acres, against 15,750,600 acres sown in 1895.

Character of the crop.—Out of the 45 districts of these Provinces, only one district, Palamau, returns a bumper crop. Four districts, Birbhum, Bankura, Hazaribagh and Singhbhum, return an average crop of 16 annas; 12 districts return crops varying from 12 to less than 16 annas, and 28 districts, estimate the crops at less than 12 annas. From Shahbad, Muzaffarpur, Cuttack, and Puri, the crop is returned even below 8 annas. On comparing these figures with those of 1895, as shown in column 8 of the appended returns, it will be seen that 12 districts report better crops, 2 districts report equal crops, and 30 districts worse crops than those of last year. The estimated general outturn of the bhadoi crops is consequently lower, and is given as 11 annas, against 13 annas estimated for the bhadoi crops of 1895.

BENGAL BHADOI FINAL REPORT.

Explanatory.—The crops dealt with in this report are (1) bhadoi food crops, the chief among which are bhadoi paddy, Indian-corn and maadua, and (2) bhadoi non-food crops, including, among other, jute, cotton and indigo. The chief bhadoi non-food crops are reported on in special forecasts; it will be unnecessary, therefore, to deal with them specially in this report. Among the bhadoi food crops, bhadoi paddy (or aus paddy, as it is called in Bengal Proper) holds the chief place, occupying an estimated area of little over 7 million acres, and about 45 per cent of the total bhadoi area; it is practically the only bhadoi cereal grown in the districts of Bengal Proper. In Bihar and Chota Nagpur, Indian-corn or maize is the most important food crop grown in the bhadoi season, and next to it rank mandua and bhadoi paddy. The bhadoi pady of Bihar is, unlike the aus of Bengal, a low land paddy which comes to maturity in October or early in November. In Orissa, bhadoi paddy, locally known as beali, occupies the first place among the bhadoi cereals, and next to it is mandua. The requirements with regard to rainfall are somewhat different for the different bhadoi crops. In Bengal Proper, where aus paddy is very largely grown, the preparation of land for this crop commences with the ante-monsoon showers which fall in March and April. The crop is sown in May, some weeks before the regular monsoon rains commence. For a successful aus crop, the monsoon should commence in June with moderate showers with frequent intervals of fine weather, to permit of weeding operations, and to enable the young seedlings to put forth a vigorous growth before the heavy rainfall, which usually follows in July. Excessive rain in May and June are extremely injurious to the young aus crop. During July and August, the rainfall should be heavy, but with intervals of fine weather. The crop flowers in August, and stands in need of rain at this time in order that it may be enabled to throw out shoots, and in order that the grain may fill out. Want of rain in August is on this account very harmful to the prospects of the crop. The aus paddy crop is mostly reaped by the middle of September, and except where it is sown late, is not influenced by the character of the rainfall after the middle of September. The cultivation of Indian-corn and the lesser millets is chiefly confined to Bihar and Chota Nagpur, where the bhadoi sowings do not commence before the regular rains set in about the middle of June. Heavy rain in June and July are detrimental to the prospects of these crops. On the other hand, want of rain in July and August is equally injurious. A moderate amount of rain, falling in frequent showers, is most favourable to Indian-corn and the lesser millets. The bhadoi paddy of Bihar, being a low land crop, is, like winter rice, highly susceptible to injury from deficient rain, especially during September and the first half of October, when moisture is required to fill out and mature the grain. Mandua is reaped about the end of October or early in November, and is liable to be injured by want of rain in September and October.

Character of the season of 1895.—The character of the present season up to the middle of September was described in the first forecast issued by this Department on the 26th September 1895. The rainfall during September was chiefly confined to a few days about the middle of the month, after which there was little or no rain in these Provinces during the rest of the bhadoi season, which may be said to close with the end of October. The most prominent feature of the season was the great lack of rain in every month, since July, in all parts of these Provinces, except in Orissa, the rainfall was deficient in July, and again in August, causing repeated floods which destroyed thestanding crops over a large area.

Area cultivated.—The total area cultivated with bhadoi crops of all kinds this year is estimated at 15,931,600 acres against 15,740,900 acres last year. The increase is nominal.

Character of the crop.—The injurious effects of the insufficient rainfall during July and August were not perhaps sufficiently realised when the first forecasts were being prepared. The outturn of bhadoi crops now reported is much lower than what was reported in September last for many districts. Taking all the bhadoi crops together, it would appear from the district returns appended hereto, that out of 43 districts, from which the final report has been received, only 1 (Tippera) reports a full average, or 16-anna crop, only 8 districts (namely, Burdwan, Bankura, 24-Parganas, Dacca, Faridpur, Backergunge, Chittagong and Gaya) report the crop to be from 12 to 14 annas, 27 districts estimate the crops at 8 annas and over, but less than 12 annas, and 7 districts (namely, Nadia, Rajshahi, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Cuttack and Puri) at less than 8 annas. The final bhadoi report has not been received from Jessore and Palamau. Looking to the poor yield of the aus or bhadoi paady crop in the Presidency and Rajshahi Divisons, which contain the most important areas under this crop, and looking also to the worse yield of Indian-corn and millets in Bihar and Chota Nagapur, it seems improbable that the yield of the bhadoi crops generally for the Province has exceeded 10½ annas; the yield of the bhadoi food crops alone has not perhaps exceeded 9½ annas of a full average crop.

BENGAL WINTER RICE CROP FIRST FORECAST.

Explanatory.—The first forecast of the winter rice crop is a report on the state of the crop about the middle of September. In many of the districts from which forecasts were received before or about the middle of September, the rice crop was reported to be suffering from want of rain. It was therefore thought necessary to enquire how the crop had been affected by the heavy rain which fell in the third week of September in most parts of Bengal. The result of the enquiry has been incorporated in the district forecasts, the majority of which now furnish information with regard to the state of the winter rice crop as late as the end of the third week of September. The date up to which information has been obtained has been noted below each district in the district forecasts appended to this note.

Character of the season.—The following is a brief description of the rainfall during the current season:—The ante-monsoon showers which usually fall in April and May in East, North and Central Bengal, and are necessary to the cultivation of winter rice in lowlying areas, were on the whole favourable this year. The rainfall during these months is not of much importance to the cultivation of the winter rice crop in other parts of Bengal. The month of June was marked by excessive rain, due to a series of cyclonic storms, in all districts lying to the south of the Ganges, viz., in Orissa, Chota Nagpur, South Bihar and the districts of the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions. The rainfall during June was normal or nearly so in East Bengal and the southern districts of North Bengal, namely, Rajshahi, Pabna, and Bogra; while the remaining districts of North Bengal and the whole of North Bihar received very little. Throughout July, August, and the first fortnight of September there was an unusually light rainfall insufficient for the requirements of the winter rice crop in most parts of the country, notably in Bihar and North Bengal, and only a few districts in the south of these Provinces received a full share of rain nuring these months. The rainfall in Orissa during this period was, on the other hand, excessive; and, combined with heavy rain in Central India, led to a series of floods which destroyed the standing crops over a large area. The great deficiency of rain in July, August, and the early days of September, when heavy rain is needed for the uninterrupted progress of the transplanting operations and for the growth of the young crop, has resulted in a curtailment of the area brought under cultivation, and in great injury to the standing crop in most parts of Bengal. The heavy rain which set in about the middle of September and continued for nearly a week has improved the prospects of the crop to a certain extent, but it came almost too late to cause any material extension of the area transplanted with rice. The winter rice crop is also reported to have suffered in parts of East

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J. J. HEATON,
Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Bombay.
Dated Malabar Point, 2nd January, 1897.

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 4.

SATURDAY'S London financial telegram through Reuter was noticed in our brief report under that evening's date, and no further messages through that medium calling for comment here have meantime reached us.

MONEY.—The Bank of Bombay Return for the week ending on Saturday, shows the following changes:—

Public Deposits at the Head Office	Inc.	Rs.	18,51,242
" " Branches	"	"	6,12,957
Other "	Dec.	"	5,84,290
Government Securities	"	"	95,807
Other authorised "	unchanged.		
Loans	Dec.	"	1,15,647
Bills Discounted and Purchased	Inc.	"	5,98,072
Balances with other Banks	Dec.	"	2,89,354
Cash	Inc.	"	16,83,898

Again the usual weekly Statement of Affairs of the Presidency Bank deals with only three days out of the week to which it relates, owing on this occasion, to the New Year holidays for which the Bank closed on Wednesday evening, when an addition of nearly 17 lakhs, at some 123 lakhs, was found to have been made to the figures of the previous Saturday, which had shown a diminution of 15¼ lakhs on those of the previous Return. The Money market on the days when the Bank was open, had become very tight; but in the very dull state of business generally in presence of great scarcity in parts of the Mofussil, and, locally, by bubonic fever scare, here was little movement last week in the items which go to show the position of Trade requirements these showing an increase of about 10½ lakhs, the improved state of the Bank's Cash Balance being due to a considerable accession to Government Deposits at the head office and branches, aggregating over 24¼ lakhs.

COTTON has been steady in tone here to-day, and prices are unchanged; but exporters have been the only buyers, the Mills having again taken nothing whatever. The purchases for shippers' account have been 1,600 bales, consisting of 700 Bengal, at Rs. 143¼-53; 400 Damergaum, at Rs. 171-8; 200 each of Dhulia, at Rs. 157; and Bhusawal, at Rs. 167; and 100 Oomrawattee, at Rs. 161 per candy.

In the Bengal Cotton circle, 82 cents of rain fell at Cawnpore, and 59 cents at Agra after the date of the last official report in the middle of last week; but beyond this news, the telegrams received this morning add nothing to the advices already to hand by the same medium.

WHEAT is steady in tone, and unchanged in value, the following being our current quotations, at which a moderate business has been reported:—

White Pessy, 91 per cent.	Rs.	6 2 0	per cwt.
Do. 85 "	"	6 1 0	"
No. 1 Club Delhi	"	6 4 0	"
Red Delhi	"	6 2 0	"
Hard Yellow	"	6 4 0	"
Red Ahmedabad	"	5 13 0	"
Hard Red	"	5 13 0	"

SEEDS.—A farther decline of one anna has taken place in the price of *Linseed*; but other descriptions are unchanged in value, the feeling being steady with a moderate business passing. We quote this evening:—

Linseed	Rs.	5 0	per cwt.
Rapeseed Yellow Guzerat	"	7 12 0	"
Do. do. Cawapore	"	7 6 0	"
Do. Red do.	"	6 13 0	"
Gingelly, White	"	45 0 0	per candy
Do. Mixed	"	42 0 0	"

The receipts of Produce into Bombay on Saturday were as follows:

Cotton	5,631 bales.
Gingelly	635 cwt.
Rice	13,485 "

FREIGHTS are unchanged at 10s. to 12s. 6d. per ton; but no fresh business has been reported since the market re-opened this morning.

EXCHANGE.—On the Banks re-opening this morning after the New Year holidays, 1s. 3 3-8 to 13-32d. was the quotation, for Telegraphic and Demand, at which latter rate business was reported to a moderate extent; and at 1s. 3 19-32d. for three months' sight Credits, a little having been reported at this rate; but Merchants' Bills have been scarce again, and the market closed quiet as follows:—

Bank Bills on Demand		1s. 3 3-8 to 13-32d.	per rupee.
Do.	Telegraphic	1s. 3 3-8 to 13-32d.	"
Do.	3 months' sight	1s. 3 15-32d.	"
Credits	3 Do.	1s. 3 5-8d.	"
Francs	3 do.	1'04½	"

GOVERNMENT PAPER opened at 98 13-16 for 3½ per Cents for Money, and one per cent lower for Account; but declined in a quiet, not to say dull, market, the cash rate being quoted at 97 13-16 at closing, with 96 named for 3 per Cents.

SHARES.—Although this market nominally re-opened for business to-day there has been next to nothing doing, and, the only changes in our quotations this evening are a decline of Rs. 140 in Manockjee Petit Mill shares. Bank of Bombay shares are Rs. 20 lower at Rs. 1,330 per share.

THE BANK OF BOMBAY.

THE following is the Statement of the Affairs of the Bank of Bombay, for the week ending 30th December, compared with the Statement of 23rd December, 1896:—

LIABILITIES.	Dec. 23. Rs.	Dec. 30. Rs.
Capital	1,00,00,000	1,00,00,000
Reserve Fund	60,00,000	60,00,000
Public Deposits at Head Office	55,13,241	73,64,463
Do. do. at Branches	16,64,994	22,77,951
Other Deposits	2,95,37,059	2,95,57,769
Post Bills	11,314	10,259
Credits, undrawn	22,44,557	23,18,423
Rs.	5,50,71,765	5,70,23,908
ASSETS.		
Government Securities	1,17,86,912	1,16,91,105
Other authorised Securities	40,11,747	40,11,747
Credits, on Govt. and other authorised Securities	54,76,558	56,45,117
Loans do. do.	1,13,93,144	1,12,43,437
Bills Discounted and purchased	1,07,84,910	1,13,82,982
Dead Stock	4,12,536	4,12,536
Stamps and Stationery	26,321	26,243
Bullion	6,17,666	2,37,812
Balances with other Banks	1,05,95,971	1,22,82,869
Cash		
Rs.	5,50,71,765	5,70,23,908

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER RIFLES.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY COLONEL R. S. BROWN V.D., COMMANDING B. V. R.

Bombay, 5th January, 1897.

1. Members in possession of Rifles are requested to return them to Head Quarters for the quarterly Inspection under para. 275 Army Regulations, India, Vol. IX. The Rifles will be re-issued within a few minutes after receipt.

BOMBAY LIGHT HORSE.

1. The squadron will parade at Church Gate Station at 6-45 o'clock this morning.
Dress.—Drill order, viz: Khaki, white helmets and Jack boots.

By order,
C. MOSS, Captain,
Adjutant B. V. R.

BOMBAY VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.

REGIMENTAL ORDERS BY MAJOR G. W. ROUGHTON, COMMANDING B. V. A.

Bombay, 5th January 1897.

1. There will be 10 in. R. M. L. Gun Drill at the Fort and Nesbit Road Headquarters, to-night and Thursday, at 8-45 p.m.
2. The Range Finding Class will meet at the Bhandarwada Reservoir, Mazagon, on Wednesday and Friday, at 7 a.m. sharp.
3. There will be Class Firing at Cooria on Tuesday and Friday next. Recruits are particularly requested to attend. Trains leave Victoria Terminus at 6, 6-40 and 7-5 a.m. (Bombay Time) and Byculla 12 minutes later in each case.
4. The Corps will parade on Saturday next, 9th instant, on the Apollo Bunder at 4 p.m. sharp and proceed by launch to Colaba to cont nue the annual gun target practice. Dress—Drill order, without arms, putties to be worn. The launch will leave the Apollo Bunder as soon after 4 as possible. Cyclist members of the Corps attending Gun Target Practice can parade at the Corps Club at 4-15 p.m. Lamps to be carried. Dress—Drill order without arms, putties to be worn.
5. Members desirous of joining a proficiency class which is about to be formed are requested to send in their names to Head-quarters at an early date.
6. The Head-quarter office of No. 2 Company at Nesbit Road Byculla, is now open daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for the issue of arms and accoutrements, &c.

By order,
A. J. PEILE, Lieut. R. A.
Adjutant B. V. A.

THERMOMETER READINGS.

SUNDAY NIGHT.—JANUARY 3.

10 p.m.	73·0

MONDAY.—JANUARY 4.

6 a.m.	72·7
10 a.m.	77·7
2 p.m.	82·4
4 p.m.	81·4

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

[THE CHARGE FOR NOTIFYING A DOMESTIC OCCURRENCE IS TWO RUPEES. THE ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE AUTHENTICATED.]

EUROPE.

BIRTHS.

CAREY—December 12, at Cornworthy, Bromley road, Lee, wife of E V Carey, of Selangor, Straits Settlements, of a daughter.

HADDEN—December 10, at Ashton, Chislehurst, wife of Fred Hadden, of Kotiyagalla, Ceylon, of a daughter.

MOCKLER—December 12, at Bhamo, Upper Burma, wife of Lieut G H G Mockler, 5th Burma Regt, of a daughter.

WEBB—December 12, at 9, Lancaster place, Cliftonville, Margate, wife of W Trego Webb, Indian Civil Service Retired, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BAYNES—WARDE—December 10, at All Saints' West Farleigh, Douglas Dyneley Baynes, Captain 12th Bengal Cavalry, second son of the late Col Charles Dyneley Baynes, Madras Staff Corps, to Margaret, youngest daughter of Ambrose Warde, of Tutsham Hall, West Farleigh.

BROWN—HILL—Dec 15, at Christ Church, Westminster, William Carnegie Brown, M D, Penang, to Jane Margaret Daisy, only daughter of Major Gen W Hill, Indian Staff Corps.

DOUGLAS.—McCLELLAND—Dec 16, at St Mary's Episcopal Church, Glasgow, Archibald Charles Douglas, M A, Oxon, son of the late Right Rev Henry Alexander Douglas, Bishop of Bombay, to Bessie, elder daughter of Andrew S McClelland, C A, 4, Crown gardens.

SANDWITH.—SMITH—Dec 15, at St Philip's Kensington Francis William Bentham Sandwith, 7th Bn Royal Rifles and Egyptian Coast Guard Service, third son of the late Major Gen J P Sandwith, Bombay Staff Corps, to Edith Margaret, daughter of the late Dr. Walter Smith, of Navenby, Lincolnshire.

WILSON.—SHORTLAND—Nov 25, at St Paul's, Paddington Arthur Wellesley, son of the late John Stewart Wilson, of Clarkebridge, Armagh, to Gertrude Emma, youngest daughter of the late Major Gen Vincent John Shortland, of the Madras Staff Corps.

WRIGHT.—BARKER—Nov 30, at the Cathedral, Rangoon, Charles M P, Wright, of Choukpazat, Upper Burma, eldest son of James Moncrieff Wright Esq, of 15, Rosendale road, West Dulwich, to Alice Lee, youngest daughter of the Rev Thomas Childe Barker, Rector of Carleton, Craven Yorkshire.

DEATHS.

HOLMES—Dec 3, on board the transport Dunera, on voyage home from India, Jenny, wife of Lt Col Henry Stanhope Holes, Commanding 2nd Bn. the Welsh Regt.

HUME-SPRY—Dec 8, at Leeston, Weston-super-Mare, Arthur Hume Spry, Bombay Civil Service Retired, aged 59.

WILKINS—Dec 15, suddenly, at 77, Queen's gate, South Kensington, Gen Henry St Clair Wilkins, late Royal Engineers, Bombay, aged 68.

OTHER PRESIDENCIES.

BIRTHS.

BARLOW—December 24, at Murree, the wife of Colonel J. A. Barlow, A.-A.-G., of a son.
CARROLL—December 27, at Shillong, the wife of Surgeon-Captain E. R. W. Carroll, of a son.
HAWKINS—December 23, at Agra, the wife of Lieut G. A. Hawkins, Indian Staff Corps, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

FRASER—DRAKE-BROCKMAN—December 28, at Christ Church, Bhagalpur, Bengal, by the Rev. E. H. Cullen, C.M.S., Howard Alan Denholm Fraser, Captain, Royal Engineers, son of the late J. D. Fraser, Esq., J.P., of Tiverton, Devon, to Edith Mary (Dollie), elder daughter of William Drake-Brockman, Esq., of Cheriton, West Dulwich, London.
GROSSMAN—KROLL—December 26, at the Cathedral, Lahore, Theodor Henry William Grossman, of Hamburg, Germany, to Emma Marie Bertha Kroll, of Lahore.

The Bombay Gazette

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1897.

THE subsidence of the pestilence in Mandvie, the large and populous district in which it first appeared and made havoc for several weeks, while the rest of the city remained unaffected, is satisfactory from two points of view. It shows that remedial measures, applied with sustained energy, are effective in checking and ultimately stamping out the disease. It also enables a number of people who left their habitations in that quarter to return and resume their avocations at a time when the exodus from other districts in the city is diminishing the labour supply and threatening the existence of industries on which thousands depend for their livelihood. The baneful visitation began, waxed, waned, and practically died out in the course of twelve short weeks. If that should prove the measure of its duration in the other districts which became affected almost simultaneously some six or eight weeks later than Mandvie, the month of February may witness the subsidence and virtual disappearance of this most unwelcome visitant. It is true that the malady now covers a wide area, and is rife among a population numbering some 400,000, in lieu of the 37,000 of Mandvie, and some of the localities now attacked are in far worse case in regard to overcrowding and other insanitary conditions. On the other hand, the experience gained and the measure of success achieved since the end of September will suggest more effective methods, and give confidence to the executive in enforcing measures for the general safety that have been found necessary and efficacious in the hand-to-hand fight with the epidemic during the last three months. The widening area affected, the portentous increase of the mortality, the growing sense of the obligation resting on all sections of the community to support the executive in their efforts, will create a powerful body of public opinion where hitherto there has been a good deal of apathy, tempered indeed by carping criticism and impossible and impracticable suggestions tending to darken counsel and scare the timid. The eminent specialists who have been engaged in the arduous task of establishing, by a patient course of bacteriological research, the real nature of the disease,—the first step towards providing an efficacious remedy for cases not absolutely hopeless from the first—and the means by which it is diffused and spreads from one locality to another, have had but a limited time for labours to the success of which time is essential. Positive results, as we have already been at pains to show, no man of science can guarantee in such matters at a given date. But even negative results are of value in clearing the ground and disposing of untenable hypotheses. Franklin drew electricity from the clouds with the string of a kite; the application of electricity to the transmission of news by wire came nearly a hundred years later. People who are impatient because a complete remedy for the present visitation cannot be produced from a laboratory in a week would have been equally sceptical of the value of Franklin's discovery of the identity of lighting and electricity.

The Standing Committee has sent up to the Corporation as a matter of urgency a sapient suggestion that three wise men should be brought out from London to "tell us what to do to get rid of plague." If there be three men in London or in any of the other capitals of Europe who can work a miracle of the kind they must be persons of very exceptional modesty to have kept their light under a bushel while the plague was raging two years ago in Hongkong. Benefactors of the human race might have achieved fame and fortune by producing a panacea for the pestilence in that Crown Colony. But no panacea was forthcoming. None but an imposter would undertake to provide anything of the kind. Deliverance must be sought in the improvement of the insanitary conditions which have been permitted to continue despite of repeated warnings and appeals from the Health Department for years past. The advice of the sanitary expert brought here six years since, to report on the state of the drainage, has not been followed. That advice was, "complete your drainage system according to the original plans and Bombay will be one of the healthiest cities in the world." Why not act on that advice lying pigeon-holed in the Municipal Offices since the year 1890, instead of discussing the wisdom of bringing out the same or another sanitary engineer who will infallibly give the same counsel? Mr. Tomlinson reported again and again that since the admission into the city of the Tansa supply five million gallons of water per diem runs to waste and sinks into the subsoil, there being no means of pumping it out. The result has been a heavy increase in the death-rate from malarious fever. This has now, by natural sequence, been supplemented by bubonic fever which strikes more terror, though it as yet, at all events, destroys fewer victims. The water-logging of the subsoil and the evils resulting therefrom have been dwelt upon with painful emphasis in the quarterly reports of the Health Officer, but the one effectual remedy, the completion of the drainage system, has not been applied. The deadly effect of turning the soil of Bombay into a pestilential marsh has become so patent that an effort is being made to mitigate it by stopping the supply of water to the houses in Kamatepura, where the taps were kept continually running and the inhabitants are now required to draw what water they need from standpipes in the streets. It can only be regretted that this expedient was not resorted to before. It is to be hoped that the Municipal authorities will oppose a firm refusal to the clamorous demands that are sure to be heard for a reversion to the system under which the house taps were kept always running. The necessity of fetching the supply needed for household purposes from the street-taps will check the tendency to splash water wastefully over walls and floors.

The investigations of Mr. Hankin have shown that ants which are the carriers of plague germs obtained from the bodies of dead rats, always seek places which are damp, and are consequently found in most abundance in the vicinity of water-taps and sinks. That fact alone is sufficient to show the desirability of keeping the interiors of chawls free from unnecessary moisture as sanitary regulations can render them. The systematic and through disinfection and lime-washing of houses in which cases of bubonic fever have occurred becomes the more indispensable, seeing that the undertaking to segregate the sick from the healthy by caste committees has not been fulfilled. It was evident from the first that the offer of cooperation with the Municipal authorities was to a great extent prompted by the desire to procure the suspension of the order for compulsary segregation. That object attained, the interest of those concerned in the cause of voluntary segregation fell away, and little or nothing has been done in that direction. It is to be feared that the sudden acquiescence in Mr. Hankin's far more sweeping proposal for the voluntary segregation, not of the sick, but of the healthy occupants of houses in which cases have occurred, will have as little result. The proposal was welcomed because it seemed calculated to direct public attention from the inaction of the committees self-appointed to arrange for the voluntary segregation of the sick. But so far there has been no enthusiasm in carrying it out. This need cause no surprise. It is useless wasting either regrets or reproaches. The one essential is to recognise that an Oriental population, fatalist by tradition and habit of thought, cannot be depended upon to devise and carry out measures for meeting and mitigating the effects of pestilence which is regarded as a visitation of Providence, which it is useless and presumptuous if not sacriligious to oppose with anything pretending to be more efficacious than sacrifice and prayer. The initiative must be taken by the public authority which, by claiming and enforcing obedience, absolves good subjects from any responsibility for the measures taken. Any endeavour to devolve that responsibility upon them is sure to end in disappointment.

COLONEL HANNA, in his new book to which we drew attention the other day, dwells upon a further class of danger called into existence by the nervous apprehensions to which the Forward School are a prey. "The evil of Rawal Pindi's haphazard lines begins and ends with themselves; a vast sum of money has been expended in fortifications which those responsible for them did not intend to hold on to. But Quetta by its position and immense military stores accumulated within its lines affords a great temptation to enterprising officers which they may find it impossible to resist. Such a base of operations should be utilised; if an enemy does not come to attack it why not go forth to seek the enemy? Quetta has not proved the ideal it was once supposed to be. Kandahar is only seventy-one miles distant, Herat is 4,174 miles nearer to the Russian frontier. A forward policy would bring adventure, perhaps victory, medals, promotion, if Quetta is an impregnable refuge on which to fall back if all did not go well." Colonel Hanna does not suppose that Quetta will one day land us in a war with Russia; that Power is distant and will probably keep beyond reach, having other business on hand. But it is different with regard to Afghanistan which is within telescopic distance. We do not share the fears that seem to beset the gallant Colonel on that score, though doubtless he is a better authority on the strength of the military passion for personal distinction plus national aggrandisement. It is natural that the army should strain in the leash. But the leash is held firmly by statesmen who understand their responsibilities. We welcome these contributions to a right understanding of Indian problems even when we cannot always accept the conclusions to which they point.

THE trustees of the Gilchrist Trust will, we hear, meet this month to take into consideration the representations they have received respecting the proposed abolition of the scholarships previously granted by them to students of Indian Universities. The governing bodies of the Indian Universities have addressed the trustees on the subject, and it is, we believe, the intention of the Council of the National Indian Association to exert any influence it may possess in support of the efforts to preserve these very useful scholarships. The Council of the National Indian Association have exceptional opportunities of knowing the value of the Gilchrist grants and how beneficial they are to the cause of higher education in the Eastern Empire. The views of so influential an association will doubtless have some weight. One of the reasons, we understand, for doing away with the Indian Scholarships is scarcity of funds; but it seems hard that India alone should have to suffer by the necessity for retrenchment. It is rumoured that another ground of objection on the part of the Trustees to continuing the present arrangement is that the Government does not provide appointments for the Gilchrist scholars. We were not aware that the Government ever undertook to do this, but we believe it pays the passage one way of the students who gain the scholarships. The Gilchrist Trust is managed by five gentlemen, namely, Mr. Richard Leigh Holland, Chairman, Lord Playfair, Sir Ughtred J. Kay-Shuttleworth, M.P., the Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., and Mr. James Stuart, M.P. Their secretary is Mr. R. D. Roberts, D. Sc.

THE P. and O. Company's steamer Thames, with the outward mails of the 25th ultimo, left Aden, at 5 a.m., yesterday, and is expected to arrive in Bombay, at 10 a.m., on Saturday next.

WE regret to learn that Dr. Manser is so seriously ill as to cause grave anxiety to his numerous friends. He returned from a hill-station only two days ago, and is now reported to be suffering from pneumonia, consequent upon his catching a chill.

THAT frontier firebrand, the Mullah of Hads, who is at present at Nawagai, has recently been doing his best to stir up mischief among the Mohmands. Some of the headmen belonging to the Halecmzai and Baezai sections of the Mohmands had come into Peshawar to receive the usual payments, and found on their return that the Mullah, with the aid of one of his agents, Sahib Huq, had burnt thirty of their houses, at the same time issuing an order of excommunication against them. It was only after they apologised to the Mullah and promised not to offend again, that the *fetwa* was withdrawn. It is clear, that the Mullah's influence, which is thus proved to be very considerable in this part of the country, will be exerted to put as many obstacles as possible in the way of the settlement of the Mohmand border question.

THE Zanzibar *Gazette* says a large number of Khojas were to sail thence for Bombay by the s. s. Nowshera, in order to be present at the ceremonies in connection with the marriage of H. H. Aga Khan.

MR. FURDOONJI SORABJI TALEYARKHAN, barrister-at-law, who has been appointed

TELEGRAMS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.

LONDON, JAN. 4.

Sir G. Taubman Goldie, Governor of the Royal Niger Company, has arrived at Akassa, and proceeded to Lokoja, where all the officers who have been specially engaged for the Niger expedition have already assembled.

An immediate advance of the expedition is expected, but its objective has not yet been divulged.

EGYPTIAN FINANCE.

Mr. Dawkins, the Inspector-General of Finance in Egypt, has concluded the financial negotiations with the British Government, and starts for Egypt to-morrow, via Vienna and Trieste.

MARINE ENGINEERS' STRIKE IN AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE, JAN. 4.

A strike of Marine Engineers throughout the Australian Colonies has taken place, the shipowners refusing to accept the Union's rules.

One hundred steamers are in consequence lying idle.

TURKISH DECORATION FOR KING MENELIK.

CONSTANTINOPLE, JAN. 4.

The Sultan has conferred the Order of Liakat on King Menelik.

THE TURKISH FINANCIAL SECRETARYSHIP.

Herr Bertram has declined to accept the post of Secretary of Finance offered to him by the Sultan.

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON AND THE INDIAN FAMINE.

LONDON, JAN. 4.

Lord George Hamilton, in reply to a letter from Lord Kinnaird, denies that he ever said that the Indian famine did not warrant an appeal to the public, but he considered an appeal before the extent of the scarcity was known would mar the effect of the charity. The public was not wanted as a subvention to Government expenditure, and its work should not interfere with Government operations. Special machinery to distribute was necessary before an appeal was made.

Lord George denies that the action of Government had stopped the charity; on the contrary, it ensures a hearty response to the appeal whenever it is made, for it will be accompanied by a clear statement of the dimensions of the scarcity.

DEFEAT OF THE ANGONI ZULUS.

Latest advices from Blantyre state that the operations against the Angoni Zulus, who lately attacked Nyassa, have resulted in the suppression of the rising by a force of three hundred men, including one hundred Sikhs.

The defeat of the rebels, who numbered several thousands, was complete.

Chikusi, the leader, was captured and hanged.

THE MAILS.

ADEN, JAN. 4.

The P. and O. Company's steamer Thames, with mails of the 25th ultimo, left here for Bombay, at 5 a.m., to-day, and the steamer China for Colombo and Australia at the same time.

FASHIONABLE WEDDING IN POONA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

POONA, JAN 4.

A large and fashionable gathering assembled, this afternoon, at St. Paul's Church, to witness the marriage of Mr. Symonds, Postmaster-General of Bombay, with Miss Grace Kirkham, daughter of the Hon'ble Mr. Kirkham, Educational Inspector, Central Division. Reverend Mr. Gothard, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Haslope, performed the ceremony, which was fully choral. The church was splendidly decorated with flowers. After the ceremony, the party went to the residence of the Hon'ble Mr. and Mrs. Kirkham's Char Bungalow, where Mr. Grattan Geary proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom in very appropriate terms. The wedding presents were numerous, and some of them rich and pretty. The bride and bridegroom afterwards departed for Lanowli amid the good wishes of the large assembly.

ARRIVAL OF TRAVELLERS.

RANGOON, JAN. 4.

Sir Mansfield Clarke arrives in Mandalay on Monday next, leaving for Shwebo on the 14th.

Two Americans, Dr. and Mrs. MacIlrath, have arrived in Bhamo on bicycles. They left Chicago on the 10th April 1895; rode to the Pacific Coast; went by steamer to Yokohama; rode through Japan; thence by steamer to China. They intended entering Burma through south of China from Canton, but they were dissuaded from this, and went to Shanghai; rode thence to Ichang, coming through to Burma, partly by ponies and afterwards on cycles.

Dr. and Mrs. MacIlrath propose crossing India and Persia to Constantinople, and will then travel through several European countries. They say the Chinese were very polite within reach of the gunboats, but in the interior they had much trouble from subordinate officials.

OPIUM SALES.

CALCUTTA, JAN. 4.

The following is the result of the first Opium Sale, held to-day:—1,625 chests Behar opium, average, Rs. 1,096; 1,625 chests Benares opium, average Rs. 1,081. Total proceeds, Rs. 35,38,725.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

LONDON, JAN. 2.

The Clan Line steamer Bullonist arrived here yesterday evening.

ADEN, JAN. 3.

The Austrian Lloyd's steamer Maria Valerie, from Trieste, left for Karachi this afternoon.

The Bombay-Japan Line steamer Muke Maru, left Singapore for Honkong on the 3rd instant.

The Messageries Maritimes Company's steamer Persipolis left Bushire via Muscat for Bombay on Friday, the 1st instant, and she is expected here on the morning of Friday, the 8th instant.

THE Ladies' League of Kindness held its twelfth Assembly the other day under the auspices of Mrs. Symes Thompson. The gathering formed a brilliant finale for the present year. Next year the first of the series will be given by the Hon. Mrs. Randolph Clay, who was the originator of this unique league, whose excellent work is too little known. Its object is to alleviate suffering and to ameliorate the lot of the needy. Patrons and Patronesses of the League hold the assemblies at their own expense, and the proceeds are handed over to a deserving protégée. By the expenditure of a very moderate amount of time and money, ladies are thus able to do a considerable deal of good.

ENGLISH POLITICAL AND SOCIAL LETTER.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, DEC. 18.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

THE feature of the earthquake experienced in England and Wales, yesterday, was the very considerable area over which the disturbance extended. A shock, and in some instances two shocks, were felt as far north as Durham, as far east as Lincolnshire, and as far south as Gloucestershire. Gallant little Wales and the West Midlands seem to have suffered most, but though unfortunately one poor woman died of fright in Hereford the effects of the visitation were not very serious. In the town just mentioned some, if not all, of the pinnacles of a church and one of those of the cathedral were damaged. Elsewhere in the same district injury was done to old houses, chimneys and windows; but the destruction of property is not to be compared to that caused by the earthquake of April 22, 1884, especially in the Eastern counties. I myself in the south-western postal district of the Metropolis was not aware that there had been an earthquake until I opened my paper at breakfast, but many persons in various parts of London distinctly felt the vibration. A friend of mine who lives within a stone's throw of the Langham Hotel tells me that his bed shook, and he thought at first a mammoth steam roller must be at work in the street. A correspondent of wakeful habits, writing from the Athenæum Club, gives an interesting account of his sensations. I should mention that the seismic movement occurred about half-past five o'clock. According to custom he made himself without leaving his bed a cup of tea from a little apparatus at his side on a table. He proceeds:—"Some time after reading, as I usually do then, I was disturbed by noises at the other end of the room, where my bedroom windows are, so distinct and unlike anything I am accustomed to hear, that I felt certain that a person must be walking across the floor, from the creaking of the floor-boards, and in the windows. It was so startling that I instantly got up, turned up the electric lights to assure myself that I was alone, then drew the curtains, looked out of the windows, and observed the wedges which are used to prevent their rattling from the wind when high on that side of the house." He saw no sign and heard none of the wind and could not determine the cause. He adds:—"I confess I have not been so startled by any undiscovered source of noise at night for many years, and never in my life felt more keenly that unoomfortable sense of movements of the surface—that is, under the skin, especially of the scalp known as 'horripilation,' as I did when the sounds first of all occurred." He lives in Wimpole Street, not far from the house of my friend who thought the earthquake was the motion of a huge steam roller. A resident in North London speaks of three undulations, and the clerk to the Salter's Company says that in St. Swithin's Lane he was lying awake at 5-35 and was much surprised to find that his bed was swinging quite gently and not unpleasantly from head to foot, that is from north to south. At the same moment he says a wardrobe in the room creaked loudly as if someone was trying to move it. Certainly the experience of this worthy and that of the gentleman in Wimpole was calculated to produce "horripilation;" in other words, "making your flesh creep," but it is rather cruel of the *Times* to suggest in the most matter of fact way a week before Christmas that many ghost stories have had their origin in some such "undiscovered source of noise." I do not observe in the comments of the papers on the phenomenon of Thursday morning any reference to the earthquakes that occurred in some parts of Scandinavia on Sunday and Monday last. Those of Sunday occurred in the Swedish province of Wermland, were two in number, and were described the next day as "very strong." That of Monday was experienced at the small town of Laurvik on the southern coast of Norway. Was there any connection between the seismic disturbances of Scandinavia and those of this country?

THE NEW IRISH DIFFICULTY.

In one sense the agitation in Ireland on the subject of her alleged excessive contribution to the Imperial exchequer is not new, but it has only just become what in political parlance is called a burning question. Everybody knows that when the Liberals were last in power what was known as the Financial Relations Commission with only two dissentients came to the conclusion that the sister isle is unfairly dealt with, in short that she is overtaxed to the tune of two millions and a-half per annum. The two dissentients, Sir David Barbour and Sir Thomas Sutherland, though they differed from their colleagues on matters of policy, did not dispute the facts. One of these two commissioners maintained that Ireland is more than compensated for the excess of what she pays by the excess of what she receives. The other insisted upon the impossibility of making Ireland a taxable entity, in other words of separating, financially, the predominant from the junior partner. The report of the commission was issued in the autumn, but owing to the Armenian and other exciting questions did not attract much attention. Indeed, it is only within the past few days that the subject has come prominently to the front. Apart from their preoccupation, the English Press had no particular reason for dwelling on the results of the inquiry; their interest was the other way. The Irish have waited for the psycological moment. That they think has now arrived. On Saturday there was an extraordinary meeting in the City of Cork "to take into consideration the report of the Royal Commission on the Financial Relations between England and Ireland." The Lord Lieutenant of the county, the Earl of Bandon, presided, and he was supported by Conservatives, Liberal Unionists, Dillonites, Healyites, and Parnellites. The Nationalist Mayor of Cork, the Protestant Bishop of Cork, the Romanist Bishop of Cloyne, Lord Castletown the Loyalist, Mr. Healy, the Nationalist, and Mr. Lough Radical, were amongst the speakers. The first resolution expressed the meeting's sense of the enormous national importance of the findings of the Royal Commission, and declares that the future prosperity of Ireland and the social happiness and welfare of her people are vitally concerned in securing such a readjustment of the present system of taxation as will give effective relief to the Irish taxpayer. The second resolution affirmed that it is the duty of the Government to take immediate steps to give effect by remedial legislation to the conclusions suggested by the report of the Royal Commission. The third resolution called upon the Irish Parliamentary representatives of all shades of political opinion "to give to the question of the excessive taxation of Ireland the prominence which its importance deserves, and to press it as a united national demand." The Bishop of Cloyne contended that Ireland had been unjustly deprived of £100,000,000, while Lord Castletown reminded English statesmen how England lost her American colony, and warned them that if the present demand of

"A UNITED IRELAND"

is disregarded Cork might have to follow the example of Boston. Similar resolutions with the cordial acquiescence of the Loyalist members have been unanimously passed by the Dublin Corporation, and the Irish press presents the novel spectacle of being for once in perfect agreement. The Unionist papers across St. George's Channel are if anything more indignant than their Nationalist contemporaries. Here is what the principal Loyalist journal, the *Daily Express*, says:—"If it be rebellious, seditious, and disloyal to demand what a Commission appointed by the Imperial Parliament avows is justly due to us, then we are all, Protestant and Roman Catholic, Unionists and Home Rulers, Rebels and Disloyal Men." In England the *mot d' ordre* has been given to the Ministerialist organs to oppose the Irish claim; at any rate, they all with one accord tell Lord Castletown and his friends that their demand is one that cannot for a moment be entertained. The *Times* in particular is very emphatic, and bluntly asserts that "the Irish are in pursuit of a will-o'-the-wisp." The *Times* in its first leading article on the Cork meeting devoted itself to the task of showing that the Financial Relations Commission was a mere off-shoot of Home Rule and as such not entitled to weight in the present state of political parties. A confession in the first page of the report that the terms of reference were "dictated by the fact that the investigation was contemplated in connection with the Home Rule Bill of 1893," is made the most of, but Mr. John Morley has retorted by reminding us of what occurred in 1890. In that year, Mr. Sexton asked for a Committee to review the taxation of Ireland. Mr. Goschen, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, replied: "I think we shall be prepared to grant an inquiry into the financial relations of the two countries. I do not want to exclude Scotland, and I think hon. members from both countries will see that we are anxious to meet them. We shall be glad to throw as much light as possible on the financial relations of the two countries. Hon. members will see at once that it must be a full and proper inquiry. . . . Of course, if the inquiry should show that injustice has been done to any part of the United Kingdom, steps will be taken to afford redress." Mr. Morley argues that Mr. Goschen's words and the subsequent appointment of the Committee make two things

CLEAR AND BEYOND ALL DISPUTE.

First, the Government of that day distinctly assumed that Ireland was to be treated as a separate taxable entity. Second, they regarded an inquiry into relative taxable resources as proper, expedient, and necessary. The *Times* rather feebly rejoins as follows:—"Undoubtedly, Mr. Goschen is a statesman who has rendered very great services to the country and to the Unionist cause, but he had no authority either from the nation or from his party to give away, in a few loose and ill-considered sentences, the logical and practical grounds of a policy on which both Liberal and Conservative Governments had been acting, consistently and without controversy, for two generations." It is practically certain that Mr. Goschen, on the occasion referred to, was acting with the consent of his chief and the Cabinet as a whole. The *Times* insinuates that the Irish landowners have joined hands with the Nationalists simply to pay out the Government for passing the Land Bill of last session. That may be true; but the imputation of unamiable motives to what Mr. Michael Davitt calls the "landlord garrison" does not help the Government much in what the *Times* admits is going to be a troublesome business.

THE TURKISH QUESTION.

Simultaneously with the return to Constantinople of M. Nelidoff, the Russian Ambassador, there has been a great revival of interest in the eternal Eastern Question, and everybody expects that something is going to happen. There is a tendency on the part of the Liberal journals to sneer at Lord George Hamilton as if he were a Minister of minor importance, and one whose speeches need not be very carefully considered. But whatever may be the case with the estimable Presidents of the Boards of Trade, Agriculture and Local Government, it is very likely that Lord George Hamilton, as Secretary of State for India, is kept pretty well informed by his chief as to what is passing with reference to Turkey. Speaking at Ealing two days ago, Lord G. Hamilton said there was a strong probability that a satisfactory arrangement would be come to for the purpose of stopping the misgovernment which was going on in some parts of Eastern Europe. That anticipation corresponds with information that comes to us from other sources, but we have had so many disappointments that it does not do to be too sanguine that we are within measurable distance of a solution of the problem that has baffled all Europe so long. Lord George was very loyal and very complimentary in his references to the Marquis of Salisbury's conduct of foreign affairs. There was

A SPECIAL REASON FOR THIS.

Although the "Forward Movement," initiated by Mr. George Russell and two other unemployed politicians, has not "caught on," it has had the effect of making Liberal orators more critical in their references to Lord Salisbury's policy. For instance, Mr. Asquith's speech at Manchester is accepted as an indication, to quote the remarks of the *Times*, that some members of his party are beginning to chafe under the restraint they have imposed hitherto upon their eloquence in this field, and to meditate a new departure; and the Armenian resolution passed at the meeting of the General Committee of the National Liberal Federation, while it congratulated Lord Salisbury on having abandoned the old policy of assuming a necessary antagonism between England and Russia, expressed "profound regret" at the failure of previous negotiations and added that "the nation will not hold the Government free of guilt, unless it proves beyond question that every effort has been made, and is still being made, to give effect to the views which the country has expressed at public meetings marked by such extraordinary spontaneity and absence of party feeling." Sir Henry Fowler, however, who spoke at Wolverhampton the same evening that Mr. Asquith addressed the Manchester Reform club, confined his criticism of the Government to their domestic policy and warmly extolled Lord Rosebery's action in reference to the Armenian question. The ex-Indian Secretary went so far as to say that he entertained "the strongest feelings of admiration and affection for Lord Rosebery, but he also referred to Sir W. Harcourt as a "brilliant leader," and spoke of his "consummate generalship."

VICTORIAN ERA EXHIBITION.

The prospects of this exhibition, to be held next year at Earl's Court, are very encouraging, and Mr. Imre Kiralfy, splendid as have been his successes in the past, promises to surpass all his previous efforts. Aided by that equally able organizer, Mr. Harold T. Hartley, the Managing Director of London Exhibitions, Limited, has obtained the assistance of a large and influential Honorary Committee of Advice comprising some of the best known men in the Kingdom. These gentlemen met on Tuesday under the genial presidency of the Duke of Cambridge, who has from the first taken great interest in the praiseworthy scheme of the enterprising syndicate to whom Londoners and visitors to the metropolis are so greatly indebted. The main object of the meeting at the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours seems to have been to let the public know what is being done, and something was said about each of the departments into which the exhibition will be divided. Thus Sir George Birdwood, who has probably had more to do with exhibitions than almost any other man living, gave an account of what his section, the historical and commemorative, hope to accomplish. Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., as chairman of the Commercial and Industrial Section, mentioned that space for commercial exhibits would be granted free, and, judging from his report, this unaccustomed liberality on the part of the directors is greatly appreciated by the trading communities throughout the country. Speeches were also made by Mr. MacWhirter, R.A., for the Fine Arts Section; Mr. George Wyndham, who did better than other speakers, for the Dramatic Section; Mr. W. H. Cummings, for the Musical Section; Sir Charles Kennedy, for the Economic Section, and last—but not least—the Marquis of Lorne, for the Woman's Work Section. Considering what is the occasion that the exhibition will celebrate, the latter section ought to be one of the most—if not the most—attractive. It is fortunate in having secured as its President and Vice-President two such energetic members of the fair sex as the Duchess of Devonshire and the Marchioness of Tweedale, the other members of the sub-committee being the Duchess of Sutherland, ever to the front in any good work on behalf of women, Lady Jeune, the Countess of Ellesmere, Countess Cowper, Countess Cadogan, the Countess of Warwick, the Countess of Selborne, Lady George Hamilton, Lady Mackenzie of Tarbat, and Henrietta Rae (Miss E. Normand), with Miss T. Mackenzie as Honorary Secretary. The chairman of the Directors, Mr. Cremieu-Iaval, of Messrs. Spiers and Pond, announced that certain alterations have been made for the effective display of the exhibits, and that a large sum has been expended on improving the grounds. I should have thought there was not—after what we saw last year—any room for improvement, but Mr. Kiralfy and his colleague are evidently men of great resources.

THE AFFAIRS OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

There is to be a similar exhibition at the Crystal Palace, but London will be so full of visitors in the summer that it will want them both. It is a pity to see that the famous institution at Sydenham Hill is suffering just now from a falling off in the support of the local residents who, in the past, have made up for the indifference of Londoners proper. So great has been the decrease in the sale of season tickets that a special meeting was held a few days ago to consider what could be done to improve the financial situation. The Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie, as the Parliamentary representative of a constituency within the Crystal Palace's sphere of influence, presided, and your former Member of Council, Sir Raymond West, whose house is within a few yards of the monument of Paxton's genius, took a leading part in the proceedings. If the managers of the Crystal Palace were able to get the residents of London to recognise that Sydenham is almost as close to Charing Cross as Earl's Court, and could induce the Railway Companies to improve their train services, then the patronage of suburban dwellers would not be essential.

THE P. AND O. STEAMSHIP CHINA.

The China, sister ship of the India, arrived in the Thames about a week ago from Belfast, and, with their usual liberality, the directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Company invited a large number of their friends to luncheon on board the new vessel at the Royal Albert Dock. There were for once no ladies amongst the guests—the company invite the fair sex when their functions occur at a more genial season of the year, and there are no dense fogs to prevent them being taken comfortably down to the docks by steam-boat from Westminster. There were few officials, the company being composed mainly of gentlemen having business relations with India, the Far East, and the Antipodes. Amongst those present I noticed Sir George Robertson, of Chitral fame, Sir James Mackay, and others whose names are well known from Peshawar to Cape Comorin. Sir Thomas Sutherland, M.P., presided at the luncheon, and, in an amusing speech, proposed prosperity to the steamship China and to the builders, Messrs. Harland and Wolff. He spoke in terms of affection of the old ship China, and observed that if she had not been a lucky boat, another name for this leviathan might have been discovered. He excited much laughter by saying that the former steamer rushed along at a speed of nine and a-half knots an hour, but there were compensations; the directors could always get out of a trifling default in contract time by alleging stress of weather! In those happy times, "when rupees were rupees," many thousands of chests of opium were carried at 13 rupees the chest, and bales of silk at a fabulous number of taels per bale. "Those," exclaimed the eloquent chairman, 'were days worth remembering, and, if we could get freights of that character now, I should be prepared, on behalf of the company, to add a premium to the very handsome contract sum which the builders of the China had obtained." Mr. W. J. Pirrie (Lord Mayor of Belfast), in responding on behalf of his firm, Messrs. Harland and Wolff, said he took a pride in stating that, although Messrs. Caird, of Greenock, were the P. and O. builders, one ship in eleven of the company's fleet had been built in his yards. Mr. Pirrie also referred to the personal interest shown by Sir Thomas Sutherland in all the many details of construction and fitting, and said it was a very great pleasure to work for such a company. There were companies for whom he felt that he did not wish to build another vessel, but the P. and O. was certainly not one of them. After the commander had briefly acknowledged the toast, Sir Francis Evans, M.P., of the Union Line, proposed

THE CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE P. AND O.

Company. The popular managing director, Mr. F. D. Barnes, in the course of a very telling speech, said that no company could be more loyally served. This concluded the speeches, and the visitors very reluctantly left the magnificent dining saloon—more like a sumptuously fitted public hall than a ship's *salle a manger*, as one of the London dailies puts it—to face the fog outside—a fog so thick, that the warnings of the dock policemen to be very careful where we stepped were not at all superfluous, for one could not see a dozen yards ahead. The description that has been given of the India applies generally to the China. She is of 8,000 tons register as compared with the 7,000 tons of the Caledonia group with a power of 11,000 horses. Her dimensions are length, 500ft.; breadth, 54ft.; and depth, 37ft.; and she has a speed of 18½ knots. She has accommodation, and such accommodation for 320 first and 160 second-class passengers. The latter was the admiration of all, and everyone voted it infinitely superior to the first-class cabins of older P. and O., vessels. Like other P. and O. vessels, the China has been constructed with a view to her being rapidly converted into an armed cruiser. The Egypt and the Arabia, vessels of the same capacity and luxuriousness as the India and the China, are now being fitted out by the builders. The only drawback to these superb steamers is, as someone said at the luncheon, that they spoil passengers, who want always to travel in vessels of the same magnificence.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S COUNCIL.

Sir Owen Tudor Burne will cease to be a member of the Indian Council on the 31st instant; but, so far as is known, Lord George Hamilton has not taken anyone into his confidence, and everybody in Whitehall is in ignorance as to who will be appointed to fill the vacancy. In some quarters it is thought that a successor to Sir Owen will not be chosen at any rate immediately. Those, however, who have thought all along that the retiring Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab (Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick) is the coming man, still consider that he has a very good chance of being selected. There is a rumour that the Secretary of State may indeed re-appoint Sir Owen for five years; but I cannot trace the report to any authentic source, and I fear it will prove to be groundless. That Lord George Hamilton would like to retain the services of so experienced and enlightened an adviser as Sir Owen is very probable, and all who are in a position to appreciate his work, both in and out of the Council, would be glad if he could stop at the India Office; but there are difficulties in the way of such an arrangement. Although it may not be possible to extend the term of Sir Owen's present appointment, his numerous friends will hope that his retirement from the India Office does not mean his permanent disappearance as a public official.

SIR ARTHUR GODLEY.

I regret to hear that the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India (Sir Arthur Godley) is indisposed and unable to attend to his official duties. He has been out of health for some time, and the loss of his younger son, aged six years, about nine days ago, was a heavy blow to him. He has been ordered abroad; and it is hoped that a few weeks' sojourn, in a more genial climate, will effect a complete recovery.

OBITUARY OF THE WEEK.

Mr. A Hume-Spry, late Bo. C. S.; Gen. H. St. Clair Wilkins, R. (Bo.) E., Ret.; Earl of Darnley; Gen. P. Bayly; Lt.-Col. D. M. Potter; Capt. H. P. Knevitt, R.N.; and Bishop Knight-Bruce.

THE despatch of the Government of India to the Secretary of State regarding the reorganisation of the Military Works Department will be sent home during the current month.

"If so appalling a calamity as a war between England and France should occur" (says the *Standard's* Paris correspondent), "England would have to meet a most serious enemy. No words can be too high, I am informed on competent authority, to do justice to the efficiency of French naval officers and seamen. Still they are, I am led to suppose, not quite up to the English mark. A French naval officer, who was at the Kiel naval display at the opening of the canal, told me how surprised all naval men were at the entrance of the British Squadron in the harbour or roadstead. While the vessels of all other nations let down boats to carry out hawsers to the quays appointed for their anchorage, the British ships steamed close up, dropped a couple of men from the bows or bowsprit, who made the huge fabric fast to its anchorage in a couple of minutes. The naval officers of all other countries who were present were astonished at the quiet, smart, orderly way in which this tour de force was performed. None but British sailors could do it. That was the verdict of my French friend."

ARRIVAL OF THE OVERLAND MAILS OF THE 18TH DECEMBER.

A ROUGH VOYAGE.

THE P. and O. Co.'s s.s. Shannon, Capt. E. Crewe with the overland mails of the 18th December, arrived in harbour yesterday morning, at 5 o'clock, leaving London the 11th December. In the River Thames she encountered very foggy weather, owing to which she was detained for twelve hours. After passing the Isle of Wight, more thick weather was experienced, and the vessel had to be anchored for two hours. On Sunday, the 13th December, a very heavy gale was met, the vessel rolling and pitching continually. This went on throughout the day and night, the weather moderating somewhat on Monday, but still blowing hard. On Tuesday, the 15th December, Cape Finisterre was passed, when the weather moderated; Gibraltar was reached at 6 p.m., on the 16th, and she left the same night for Marseilles, which port was reached on the 18th December.

The Shannon, after been detained at Marseilles for twelve hours on account of the thick weather, left at 4 p.m., on Saturday, the 19th December, for Port Said, which was reached at 3 p.m. on Thursday, the 24th, a very strong head wind being met during the voyage. After receiving 890 bags of mails brought by the s. s. Clyde from Brindisi, the Shannon left the port at 7 p.m. and entered the Canal, but was again detained, the ship grounding at Lake Timsah. No damage was sustained, and after being nearly six hours stranded the boat was got off at high tide and proceeded on her voyage, reaching Suez at about 8-30 p.m. Aden was reached at 11 p.m. on the 29th December. From Suez to Aden moderate weather was experienced. The Shannon left Aden at 6 a.m., on the 30th, after receiving the local mails and postal staff on board for Bombay, arriving in port at 5 a.m., yesterday, and anchored opposite Custom Bunder. The usual entertainments were held during the voyage, concerts, dances and sports being the order of the day. On the New Year's eve a dance and concert took place, the second saloon passengers being invited to take part. The health of the commander, officers, and crew was enthusiastically drunk by the passengers. She brought the following passengers:—

FROM LONDON

Backhouse, Miss	Knight, Mr
Bedford, Mrs	Moore, Mr T R
Betteridge, Miss	Nicholson, Mrs and Miss
Bull, Mrs	Rankin, Mrs
Carusen, Miss E U	Reynolds, Mr W B
Crawley, Mrs	Roberts, Mrs and 3 children
Dunan, Mr E G	Robinson, Miss
Fellows, Miss	Saxton, Mr
Fraser, Mr and Mrs	Slater, Mrs
Foulkes, Mr	Sutcliffe, Mr G E
Garratt, Mr	Weston, Lieut
Garratt, Mr L	Williamson, Mr
Grieven, Mr R	Williams, Miss B, 3 children and 2 infants
Hennesley, Mrs and 2 children	
Jenkins, Mrs R A and child	

FROM MARSEILLES

Ashton, Dr	Mortimer, Rev E, Mrs and child.
Byrne, Mr O A	Morwanjee, Messrs P & F
Bruce, Mr David	Mann, Mr
Burgess, Miss	Paley, Mrs and Miss
Cooke, Mr and Mrs Gerard	Powell, Dr
Conder, Mr H F	Pomeroy, Hon E
Carton, Mr W J	Partridge, Mr J G T
Dallis, Mr J E	Parker, Mr
Davies, Miss	Reiley, Mr G M
Elwes, Mr C Carey	Stephens, Mr L B
Forbes, Mrs	Steward, Lieut R J
Fagan, Major	Smith, Miss
Frostour, Miss	Vivian, Major
Fitzwilliam, Mr	Wilson, Mr A J
Grey, Mr C E	Warnaker, Mr R
Gibbs, Major	Wedderburn, Mr
Golds, Mr Framjee	
Hewetson, Mr and Mrs	
Kerrick, Capt and Mrs	

FROM BRINDISI.

Moscup, Mr S W	Turner, Mr A W
Prestwick, Mr	Whitley, Mr W
Tate, Mr	

FROM ISMAILIA.—Glamacopulo, Mr

MILITARY NEWS.

MAJOR S. GRANT, R. E., on return from Sunkin is posted to the Punjab Command, Military Works Department.

VETERINARY LIEUTENANT E. WILKINSON, A. V D., is granted an extension of leave in England until February next.

VETERINARY LIEUTENANT H. B. KNIGHT, A.V. D., comes out at once to complete the unexpired tour of his service in this country.

LIEUTENANT B. F. P. FEILDING, 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, has been selected for employment at Uganda under the Imperial Foreign Office.

CAPTAIN THE HONORABLE C. E. WALSH, 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade, Captain E. S. Herbert, 1st Royal Hihglanders, Captain C. G. Stewart, 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, and Lieutenant A. G. Dwyer, 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment are appointed to the Egyptian Army, and proceed at once to Cario.

THE Berars and Central Provinces Volunteer Challenge Cup has been carried off again this year by the Bengal Nagpur Railway corps; and the Commanding Officer has sanctioned the issue to each member of the winning team and of any team that may win it for the B. N. Railway a silver medal with a suitable inscription.

THE following appointments have been made:—10th Madras Infantry.—Second-Lieutenant A. L. Longhurst, Border Regiment, to be Officiating Wing Officer on probation. 2nd Madras Infantry.—Second-Lieutenant E. R. Wetheral, Unattached List, to be Officiating Wing Officer on probation. 10th Bengal Lancers.—Second-Lieutenant P. T. Stainforth, Unattached List, to be Officiating Squadron Officer on probation. 25th Punjab Infantry.—Second-Lieutenant O. A. G. Fitzgerald, Unattached List, to be officiating Wing Officer on probation. 30th Punjab Infantry.—Second-Lieutenant D. S. Browne, Unattached List, to be Officiating Wing Officer on probation. 13th Bomby Infantry.—Lieutenant F. C. Macnaughten, Royal Irish Regiment, to be Officiating Wing Officer on probation.

THE IN-COMING MAIL.

THE following is a list of passengers from Europe per s. s. Thames, expected to arrive, at 10 a.m., on Saturday next, the 9th instant:—

Atkinson, Mrs	Davies, Lt and Mrs C H
Asrad-Din, Mr S	Elwin, Mr E A
Aquiar, Capt and Mrs	Hutson, Mr C E
Aquiar, Mrs and 3 children	Hay, Mr Frank
Boulth, Mr V H	Johnson, Mr L P
Brown, Mr H Lindsay	Kirwan, Mrs Maitland
Bulkeley, Mrs	Kennedy, Mr and Mrs J E
Buckle, Mr C E	Miller, Mr
Culling, Mr	Morris, Mr D
Chree, Mrs and infant	Moore, Lt A
Carter, Mr S	Overton, Mr J J R
Campbell, Mr	Preston, Mr W D
Chester, Mrs and infant	Salmon, Mr
Cornal, Mr W	Thornton, Miss

POLO MATCH.

THERE will be a return "scratch" match at polo, this afternoon, at 4-30 sharp, between the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Bombay Gymkhana. The names given below will be the probable representatives of each team:—

R. Dub. Fus.	Bombay Gymkhana.
Capt. Rooth.	F. O. Ellison.
Capt. Weldon.	J. Fairclough.
Lieut. Lowndes.	F. Graham.
Lieut. Cory.	P. F. Fischer.

DR. T. M. MAGUIRE lectured at the Crystal Palace, on December 16, on "Our Navy and Army in the Reign of Queen Victoria." At the outset he urged the supreme importance of the Navy in maintaining our position at home and abroad. The population had increased by fifty millions, about one-fifth of which had emigrated. The expenditure on the Navy was only at the rate of 30s. per ton, less by comparison than similar expenditure by Continental nations. Let them not trust to coalitions, for history showed that it was England alone that had often saved coalitions. At the beginning of the reign the Navy was absolutely supreme, but it was not so now. As to the Army, at the beginning of the reign the British soldier was not respected; but Tommy Atkins was no longer a pariah. He held in his hand a book recording the deeds of Victoria Cross heroes. It was a book that ought to be in the hands of every woman. There was a time when British women bred men and not "philanthropic humanitarians." An efficient army of men—not boys—was essential to support the Navy. It should be properly equipped, and furnished, with an adequate commissariat. The Volunteer force was not properly organised. The Empire should be looked upon as a valuable business which ought to be insured. He warned them of the dangers of unreadiness, drawing his illustrations from the campaign of 1870 and the Chino-Japanese war.

THE BUBONIC FEVER.

THE Municipal returns of cases of bubonic fever and deaths therefrom for the twenty-four hours ending, at 10 a.m., on Sunday, give the following results:—

SUNDAY.

	Cases.	Deaths.
A Ward (Fort and Colaba)	5	3
B Ward (Mandvie)	3	2
C Ward (Bhuleshwar)	8	9
D Ward (Girgaum)	8	3
E Ward (Byculla)	16	13
F Ward (Parel)	6	0
G Ward (Mahim)	4	2
Arthur Road Hospital	0	0
Parsee Hospital	0	0
Jain Hospital	0	0
St. George's Hospital	0	0
Harbour	0	0
Total	50	32
Grand Total	2,620	1,877

THE Municipal returns for the twenty-four hours ending, at 10 a.m., on Monday, show the following results:—

MONDAY.

	Cases.	Deaths.
A Ward (Fort and Colaba)	7	5
B Ward (Mandvie)	1	11
C Ward (Bhuleshwar)	14	7
D Ward (Girgaum)	13	9
E Ward (Byculla)	37	7
F Ward (Parel)	9	3
G Ward (Mahim)	8	2
Arthur Road Hospital	0	
Parsee Hospital	0	5
Jain Hospital	0	0
St George's Hospital	0	0
Harbour	0	0
Total	80	43
Grand Total	2,700	1,920

THE POLICE FORCE AND THE SCARE.

Mr. Vincent, Commissioner of Police and his assistants have not been free from anxiety in reference to the effect of the prevailing scare upon the force. As the men are out in the streets for hours at a time, many of them in the heart of the affected districts, they are naturally perturbed when they see corpse after corpse carried through the streets. There have been five deaths among the force from plague, and three or four other cases are undergoing treatment in the hospital. Several sepoys have been temporarily struck off the rolls owing to sickness or death of members of their household, and in a few cases the men have disappeared. These diminutions of the force are serious, for it is impossible in the present state of feeling to replace the sepoys by men of the right stamp. The demands made upon the police are not lessened by the exodus to such an extent as might be supposed, since untenanted houses containing the effects of people who have fled require guarding more closely than when they are occupied. There is a very heavy demand just now from private persons for ramosees, to watch their premises while they are away. Some 400 additional men have been put on this duty, and in the Marwaree bazaar alone, nearly 100 men are employed in watching the shops containing the unknown treasures locked up in the big safes which invariably form the principal feature of a Marwaree merchant's stock in trade. This demand does not, however, diminish the number of sepoys available for general duty, since the ramosees are invariably drawn from the ranks of those who, from not meeting the required tests as to height or other standards, are refused admission into the regular police force. But owing to the way in which the tailoring trade has been denuded of hands from the panic, great difficulty is found in meeting the requirements of the ramosees in the matter of uniform.

In order to reassure his men and to obviate the risk of a general exodus amongst them, with all its disastrous consequences to the city, the Commissioner of Police has applied to Government for a grant of Rs. 10,000 for the purpose of providing the men and their families with detached accommodation. It is proposed to erect one camp at the back of the Goculdas Tejpal hospital on Cruickshank Road and another near the Victoria Gardens, thus giving accommodation for about 1,800 persons. The sepoys of the Marine Battalion having been allowed camping ground near the Oval, it is felt that similar steps to protect the police sepoys should no longer be delayed. The great need of the hour is to inspire the men with confidence so as to prevent them giving way to panic. The segregation camps will doubtless have a good effect in this direction. In common with all menial servants of Government whose pay is Rs. 16 per mensem or under, the sepoys are now receiving Re. 1-8. monthly as compensation for the dearness of grain; and are undoubtedly much better off than if they had fled to the famine-stricken districts of the mofussil.

have been taken in a dying state from trains which they entered in Bombay hoping to reach their "mulluck" in time to be gathered to their fathers.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE MILL-HANDS.

A large number of hands of the Jivraj Balloo, the Shivlal Motilal, the Manockji Petit, and other mills are absenting themselves, and it is feared that they may flee in a body. The managers and other authorities of the several mills are trying their best to persuade the men not to leave their work, but their endeavours are in vain, as these ignorant people are most obstinate. In a certain mill, the hands said that even the agents had fled for their lives; and the lives of the poor were as precious as those of the rich. The situation is most critical, and some of the mills will inevitably have to be closed.

THE SITUATION AMONG THE PARSEES.

The plague has caused much sensation among the Parsees, who are fleeing away with their families. The disease is mostly prevalent among the Parsees residing in the Fort and Dhobie Talao. The Mody Bay and Frere Road are almost drained of the community, and the consternation is at its height at Dhobi Talao. On an average five or six deaths occur daily among the Parsees from bubonic fever, and this is considered serious, since a large number of the people have left for up-country, Andheri, Malad, and other villages are crowded by them, and they are afraid even to come to Bombay on business. At Surat, Nowsaree, Ahmedabad, and Broach, the prices of grain, meat, ghee, sugar, and other articles of food have gone up considerably in consequence of the influx. This is a hardship upon the poor inhabitants, who feel the rise in prices the more keenly since they follow those previously imposed in consequence of the scarcity.

INCIDENTS OF THE OUTBREAK.

The simple fisher folks at Daravie on the north of the island are doing their best to segregate themselves by holding as little communication with people outside their own community as possible. In one or two cases intruders have been roughly handled. On Sunday night, for instance, a party of Hindu traders went to Daravie and received an unexpectedly warm reception from the villagers. In the free fight which ensued five of the visitors were injured and the whole party were driven back. Only a very few cases have occurred at Daravie, but several have been recorded amongst the fishermen whose habitat is at Cleveland Bunder, Worli.

In reference to the death of Mr. Glover, the Chief Inspector of the Health Department, it is worthy of note that, although he was attacked with bubonic fever, this was not the disease to which he succumbed. It seems that on Christmas eve the men under his charge were using a hose to flush the inside of a house with water and a solution of phenyle. Being dissatisfied with the way in which the work was carried out, Mr. Glover took up the hose to show the men the way, and became saturated with water. This brought on a chill, which continued after the bubonic fever had left the patient. Congestion of the lungs followed, and it was from this cause and not from the bubonic fever that death ensued.

The two patients suffering from the epidemic who have been under treatment at the St. George's Hospital, since Thursday last, are progressing favourably towards recovery.

A Hindu, name unknown, aged thirty-five years, who had been suffering from the pevailing malady for three days, suddenly fell down in the 2nd Pathan Street on Sunday morning, and expired. The coroner, on being informed, ordered the body to be disposed of.

The Small Causes Court, which opened yesterday morning after the Christmas vacation, presented a gloomy aspect. The compound and verandahs of the court are usually scenes of great bustle and excitement, hundreds of Marwarees running here and there with books of account in their hands. But yesterday the purlieus of the court were nearly empty, a few disinfecting fires burnt by the municipality being the principal things seen. There are on an average seventy-two cases on the board of each Judge, but on the court being opened yesterday morning, scarcely a dozen cases were down for hearing by each of the Judges. Most of these were postponed by the Judges on applications made by different pleaders on the ground that their clients had left Bombay owing to the bubonic fever. Mr. Rustomji Merwanji Patel, the Second Judge, took his seat on the bench at 11 o'clock, and in about half-an hour disposed of the attenuated cause list.

At the F. C. Institute, Dr. Rustom N. R. Ranina will deliver a lecture on how to prevent an attack of bubonic disease, at 5-30 p.m., to-day, in connection with the Dnyan Prasarak Mandli. Some specimens of the plague germs will be exhibited.

Mr. Allan F. Turner, the coroner, held an inquiry, yesterday at the J. J. Hospital, touching the death of Mahadoo Baloo, a Municipal labourer, employed in the drainage department, and residing with his wife at 10th Lane, Khetwady. About 8 o'clock, on Saturday evening last, deceased returned home and complained to his wife that he was tired of the "ghastly" work he had to perform in lighting sulphur fires in the town every night, and that he would not go on duty that night as his inspector was angry with him. Mahadoo was served with his food by his wife, but he partook of very little, and about 9 o'clock went to sleep. During the night he became thirsty, and often asked for water to drink. About 7 o'clock on the following morning Mahadoo was heard breathing heavily and found unconscious. A Parsee medical practitioner was summoned, and under his advice deceased was conveyed to the J. J. Hospital, where he never recovered his consciousness and died in the afternoon. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

THE PLAGUE IN BANDORA.

From 6 a.m. of 30th December 1896 to 6 a.m. of 2nd January 1897, 27 attacks and 21 deaths, bringing up the total since the outbreak to 110 attacks and 81 deaths, occurred in Bandora.

THE DRAINAGE OF KAMATIPURA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—I have recently seen a Bombay bi-weekly newspaper of the 26th ultimo which gives particulars of the shocking mortality now raging in the six most populous localities of the native town, ranging from 22 per 1,000 in Kamatipura to 120 per 1,000 in Kumbharwada. These are not only the most populous localities, but also those in which the old systems of drainage have been longest in existence. The streets in these districts have either pipe or masonry sewers laid with much too flat a gradient, which are nothing more or less than elongated cesspools, filled with black fetid sewage, which can never get away by natural flow, but must be removed by hand. Kamatipura also though drained upon the old system has the house-connections of its gullies ilicted throughout the district with pipes and gully traps, which, owing to their being unsuited to the habits of natives, are continually getting choked up.

I notice in the same paper that the Health Officer of Bombay is advertising for tenders for four steam pumps to be used for flushing the gullies from refuse.

I have also recently seen that the Municipality are wasting their energies in prosecuting house-owners in the police court because the ground floor rooms are ill-ventilated and have too small windows.

I cannot too strongly inslst that it is a waste of energy to flush the gullies and wash the refuse into the sewers, but that it is worse than useless to do this. I have it strongly impressed upon may mind as the result of my long experience of the gullies and streets of Bombay, that the sole cause of the mischief now raging is the sewers being choked with filth, and that the remedy is to employ a large permanent staff to clean them all out by hand four times a year, i.e., those sewers which are laid with too flat a gradient. In addition all the sewers even of the newest pattern should have the cleaning irons passed down them four times a year, so as to make certain that there are no chokes in them, and that they are in good working order. This means a large permanent expenditure in additional staff, but more cleaning irons could be turned out by our large iron firms in a week, and this extensive cleaning-out would have the happiest result in immediately reducing the mortality. We should thus be doing something in the right direction, instead of wasting our energies in burning sulphur fires, attempting the impossible task of segregating a population of two lakhs of people, and increasing the great fear by painting on the doors the numbers who have died of the plague. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that the plague figures are all fallacious. What matters it that figures show that the plague deaths per week are from 15 to 20 per cent. of the normal mortality, when the average death-rate from all disease in the six districts referred to at the commencement of this amount to 152 per 1000, being from four to five times our normal death-rate. It is of no use to worry and trifle away our time upon anti-bubonic serum; let us put our shoulder to the wheel and insist upon the Municipal executive cleaning our street sewers. There is salvation in this. It is better to have a good healthy stink from the black stuff while it is being temporarily laid out in heaps near the cleaning chambers preparatory to removal. The good kind sun and wind are then oxygenating it and burning up all dangerous odours. But it is awfully dangerous while lying for months and years in the dark along the bottom of the sewers, even when it may be emitting no noticeable odour; for then, during the nights, it is worst and most fatal. In addition to this, I made a list of some ten or more minor suggestions, all which ought to be carried out by the Municipality or at their initiative during this time of trouble. I sent the list to Mr. George Cotton the day that I left Bombay. There is one other matter to which I might usefully allude before closing this letter. The Muncipal executive are heavily handicapped in the construction of new houses because, in the section in question, the words in quotation "upon any site not previously built upon" make the wise provisions of this section of the Municipal Act in operation. It was inserted at the passing of the Act by the Select Committee, because of the too stringent provision relating to ventilation, viz., that, "in a private house the side gully lighting room not otherwise lighted shall be 2 feet wide, while in the case of a chawl the side gully shall be 5 feet wide." As every private house in the town is, strictly interpreted, built as a chawl, the 2 feet width would be inoperative and the 5 feet gully would be universally insisted upon by the executive. This would be oppressive, as there are many houses in the town with not more than 10 to 12 feet frontage, and even less, so that if 5 feet were taken up by the gully, there would only remain 5 to 7 feet width for the house. Private houses and chawls should therefore be treated alike. If then the Health Officer and the Municipal Commissioner would agree to a compromisse of the minimum width of gully in that particular sub-section being 3½ feet for both private houses and chawls I would advocate that the Corporation should at once sanction these words "upon any site not previously built upon" being deleted from the Act, and we should in a few years experience a great and permanent improvement in the health of the town. I say this advisedly, for there are plenty of gullies in Bombay from 12 to 18 inches wide only. The amended Act could be approved by the Corpotion as an urgent resolution in a week, by the Bombay Legislative Council in a week, and by the Supreme Government in a week, so that in less than a month we should have a most wise improvement made in the Act upon the necessity and usefulness of which all are agreed. Let us not remain under any false allusions. It is no use running away from Bombay for fear of the plague. It has to be squarely faced and remedied. Everybody must have noticed that for some years past the health of the town, as judged by the mortuary statistics, has been steadily deteriorating. The black spot, the real cause of the increased mortality, is, I firmly believe, odours from the sewers, due to their not being kept properly clean, and to the contents from the privies, now thrown in under the new system, not being able to get away quickly enough.—Yours, &c.,

Madras, Jan. 2. D. GOSTLING.

THE BOMBAY MILLS AND THE PLAGUE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—So much, mature or crude, has been contributed of late towards the literature of the plague now raging in the city, that perhaps a humble hint to scientific experts to consider what part mills and factories play in mitigating the effects of the prevailing epidemic, may not be out of place, especially at a time when the advisability of closing mills is being seriously thought of in reference to the threatened exodus of the mill-hands. If the free use of disinfectants in affected houses and localities is of any value—and this is largely resorted to both by private individuals and by the Health Department, then the hundreds of tons of coal consumed daily in Bombay, in mills and railway and other workshops, producing carbon, carbonic acid, carbonic oxide, and various carbonaceous, sulphurous and tarry compounds, must contribute in no small measure towards checking the spread of the disease. Whatever its effects may be on the sensitive respiratory organs, it is still held by sanitary authorities that the products of coal used in large quantities exert a beneficial influence by their disinfectant action. The numerous chimneys in Bombay—much maligned in ordinary times,—may thus be said to be rendering good service in fighting the unwelcome visitant. Again, if electricity is any aid to health and possesses any terrors for this grim visitant, the interior of the mill has a copious supply of it. The licking of laps in the blow room, the licking of rove ends to the rollers and bad spinning generally, are in themselves sufficient evidence of the existence of electricity in mill atmosphere. Now, as to mortality among mill-hands who work 12 hours in the mill atmosphere and live in the neighbourhood of mills, not differently in any sense as regards overcrowding and uncleanliness from their brethren in the native town, my information is that these operatives have so far been comparatively immune from this distemper,—such cases among these nearly 75 thousand souls being accidental and imported. Were it otherwise, their flight from the city would have begun long ago. Not heavy mortality, therefore, as among other artisan, labouring, and menial classes, but the contagion of panic and scare is, in my humble opinion, disturbing the minds of these denizens of our "Girnipur." If these facts should be brought home to the mill-hands by their leaders—men like Rao Bahadur Lokhande, Mr. Vandekar, and others,—I have no doubt the senseless panic among these operatives would be greatly allayed and much suffering prevented among these poor people, not to speak of the indirect effect on public health at this critical time by the closing of mills and robbing the air of its rich disinfecting elements now so badly in requisition.—Yours, &c.,

VINAYAK A. TALCHERKAR.

Jan. 4.

A SOVEREIGN REMEDY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "BOMBAY GAZETTE."

SIR,—I have carefully gone through all about the bubonic plague ("The Mohamurse") published in several newspapers, and taken the earliest opportunity of offering to the public and the suffering humanity a marvellous specific for the treatment of the said dire disease which now prevails in an epidemic form in the Bombay Presidency. I quite agree with Dr. Weir, the famous Healtth Officer of Bombay, about the nature of the disease, expressed by him and published in the "Madras Mail" of the 30th September last, which I have gained a knowledge of during my long professional experience, and the prescription of my specific runs as follows:—

As soon as the suspicious prembnitory signs and symptoms of the disease are noticed in a person a teaspoonful of Dr. Lamplough's pyretic saline should be mixed in half a tumbler of lemonade and given to adult patients during efforescence, and ½ or ¼ a teaspoonful of the saline in an ounce or two of the said water to children under twelve years of age, and this should be repeated every three or four hours, according to circumstances, till cure is effected, and externally, an equal part of blue ointment, belladonna pigment, and finely powdered bomdalla seeds should be taken and mixed up well, and gently rubbed over the affected glands three or four times a day; and in advanced cases where suppuration has set in the hard surrounding parts of the glands should be smeared over with the ointment and the opened surfaces touched with caustic solution prepared to the strength of 30 grains to an ounce of rain-water, by means of a cotton brush, and ragi or linseed poultice applied over them as often as possible till the patient is bought round. Diet should be strictly restricted to conjee with milk, which may include sago, cornflour, arrowroot, and broken rice, &c., and also chicken or mutton broth. Alcoholic stimulants strictly prohibited. As for drinking liquids filtered water well boiled and cooled mixed with a few grains of citric and, say, two teaspoonfuls to a gallon, may be freely taken during the attack, and also as prophylactic together with pyretic saline which may be used three times a day during the time of the plague.

I am extremely glad to note that these medicines can be easily procured from every local chemist shop and used by the patients themselves. The specific will no doubt prove a great boon to the public, as several serious cases of this nature have been successfully treated and cured. Of course the usual sanitary precautions should be carefully observed during the prevalence of the disease.—Yours, &c.,

A. PUNUSAWMY PILLAY,
Medical Officer, Cochin State.

Wadakancheny, Dec. 29.

TELEGRAPHIC LINE REPORT.

JANUARY 4.

STATE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Via Teheran, perfect. Via Turkey, perfect. Via Suez, perfect.
CONTINENT OF EUROPE.—Via Teheran, perfect. Via Turkey, perfect. Via Suez, perfect.
AMERICA.—Via Brest, perfect. Via Valentia, perfect. Via Direct Cable, perfect.
AUSTRALIA.—Via Penang, perfect. Via Amoor, perfect.
CHINA.—Via Penang, perfect. Via Amoor, perfect. Via Bhamo, perfect.
AFRICA.—Via Aden, perfect. Via Cadiz-Teneriffe, perfect. Via Lisbon St. Vincent, perfect.
Cable Suakin Jeddah, restored.
Cable Mozambique Lourenzo Marquis, restored.

HOME REMITTANCES.

THE following is the Weekly Memorandum of Remittances to the Home Treasury by means of Council Bills of the 31st December 1896:—

	£
Amount to be remitted during 1896-97	16,500,000
Remitted from 1st April 1896 to 29th Dec. 1896 ...	11,960,500
Balance to be remitted from 27th December 1896 to 31st March 1897	4,539,500

THE LATE STRIKE OF THE G. I. P. RAILWAY GUARDS.

ALLEGED CLAIM AGAINST THE COMPANY.

YESTERDAY, all the passenger-trains included in the time-table of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway ran at the usual hours, the guards having cheerfully resumed work, in consequence of the compromise arrived at between their leaders and Mr. Barnett, the Agent, on Sunday night. During the strike not a single goods-waggon had been moved, but the resumption of work enabled the departmental officers to get off some of the consignments awaiting despatch. They have for days now had a busy and anxious time of it, and must be heartily glad that the strike is at an end. The special train, which usually runs from Lanowli on Monday morning to bring back "week-enders" to their work in Bombay, came in at the right time, and was cheered at the Terminus and at various stations along the line. The guards have very cheerfully resumed work, and are proud of the signal victory they have won. Mr. Henry Conder, the General Traffic Manager, arrived by the mail steamer Shannon in the morning, and took over charge from Mr. Keiley. The proposed deputation to Mr. Conder was abandoned, owing to the change in the situation since the time that the deputation was first arranged for. There is a general consensus of opinion amongst the guards that the three or four men who kept to their work at the critical time should be "sent to Coventry," or—to use the more modern phrase—be boycotted. The want of trains on Saturday and Sunday caused great inconvenience to up-country residents, who were unable to obtain their customary supplies and stores. It is said that the G. I. P. Railway Company has already received numerous claims for damages sustained by reason of the non-delivery of goods at specified dates, and by other breaches of contract due to the dislocation of traffic. The strike was almost entirely worked by the men hailing from England, but their country-born and native comrades rendered them every assistance and readily agreed to their proposals. One outcome of the brief but decisive battle fought between capital and labour on the G. I. P. line will be the formation of a society to protect the interests of Railway employees, on the same principles as those adopted by the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in England. Promises of membership have been received from employees on other systems throughout the country, and the project for a society will shortly take definite shape.

In the course of a conversation with our representative, one of the most prominent strikers urged with emphasis that it was the officials who agreed to the terms of the men and not the men who accepted the terms put before them by the officials. He added: "There is one thing we did not like, and that was the part taken in the affair by Superintendent Brewin, whose intervention might be supposed to indicate unlawful acts on our part. I want it to be widely known that we did not ask for his help; and that he was there in his private capacity, and not at our invitation. We agreed to a settlement of the quarrel largely in the interests of the public who were greatly inconvenienced by the strike. It now remains to be seen what the Home Board says. If they do not support the action taken by the Agent, subject to their approval, the strike will be resumed. It is quite impossible for the company to get on without us, for, even if sufficient guards could be borrowed from other lines, they would not be sufficiently acquainted with our system to ensure the ordinary safety of the travelling public. During the strike, the trains were worked in an illegal manner. According to the Government rules a man cannot be placed in charge of a train until he has passed the necessary examination. But, on this occasion, the rule was completely ignored and even ignorant porters as well as loafers from the Crawford Market were pressed into the service."

The guard went on to strongly deny that the officials were absolutely taken by surprise by the strike. On the last five days of the year," he said, "the Acting General Traffic Manager had telegrams from his District Traffic Superintendent stating that the men intended to go out. This of itself should have given rise to an inquiry and to the taking of measures, if possible, to prevent the total suspension of traffic. Even outside railway circles rumours were afloat as to what our intentions were. We attribute all troubles to Mr. Keiley, whatever may be said as to the action of the Home Board, and we feel sure that if Mr. Conder had been here this thing would not have happened. The Acting General Traffic Manager is so unpopular that we did think at one time of wiring to the Home Board to ask for his dismissal. But wiser counsels prevailed, and it was thought best to confine ourselves to obtaining the redress of our wrongs, leaving it to the directors to form their own opinion as to the action of Mr. Keiley. If we had sent Home such a message, it is more than doubtful whether we should have retained the sympathy and the support which has been given us, more or less openly, by almost all the officers of the company. We have profited greatly by sound advice received from our solicitor, Mr. Creagh. If left to ourselves we might have committed mistakes, which, without our knowledge or intention, would be breaches of the law. For instance, had we gone on the platform at Bori Bunder on Friday night, our conduct might have been construed into coming together as an unlawful assembly. The loss to the company, owing to the strike, has been infinitely greater than the comparatively paltry savings which would have been effected had Mr. Keiley had his way about our batta and allowances."

DAMAUN NOTES.

OUR correspondent, writing on Sunday, says:—The two females (Jamna and Diwali), who, as mentioned in my last communication, on being suspected of suffering from the Bombay bubonic plague, were peremptorily ordered to leave the city, were not taken by their relatives to the lazaretto on Serra do Cruz Hill (as it does not contain the conveniences required for human residence, and is situated in a lonely place without any neighbourhood within two miles) but proceeded to Vapi where they became convalescents and secured permission to return to their own house at Damaun. Owing to the strict watch kept to prevent any sick persons entering the city, some of the old residents of Damaun, returning from Bombay, where they had gone to earn their livelihood, have been compelled to seek shelter in British villages adjoining the Portuguese territory. Govindrao Atmaram, a Brahmin house-owner of Upper Damaun, returning from Bombay with his family to avoid the plague, could not venture to enter Damaun as his wife, Amba, had been attacked with symptoms of the plague, and halted at Pali Karamli, a British village two miles from Damaun, where his wife succumbed to the disease on the 31st ultimo.

The exodus from Bombay has contributed to an increase of the population of this city by over 3,500 souls. In fact, Damaun had never during the last thirty years assumed such a lively appearance as it presents now. Everywhere new faces are to be seen. More than a-fourth of the congregation at the morning service on the New Year's Day in the Church of our Lady Senhorada Mar were arrivals from Bombay, either scared away by the bubonic plague or come here to enjoy the Christmas holidays. The Vania-vad, which street is the residence of Bunniahs, is crowded, upwards of 250 Bunniahs, some of them being merchants and lawyers' clerks, sharebrokers, opium and cotton speculators, metahs, &c., having arrived here from Bombay within the past week or ten days. Every one of a large number of houses which had remained for a long time unoccupied has been let on heavy rent or occupied by its owner who has to thank his stars for not having got rid of it simply to avoid the payment of the annual *zopdi* (house-tax). Many persons in Bombay have been desirous to breathe the cool and healthy atmosphere of this place, but are not able to secure dwelling accommodation. A large number of tailors, carpenters, weavers, blacksmiths, and dhobies who have flocked here intend to prolong their stay until the plague in Bombay shows signs of disappearing. As to clerks and metahs who have come here, they stand between two fires, the plague and dismissal from service, and such of them as have not been able to obtain leave to absent from their places and cannot afford to give up their bread, reluctantly leave this place to-night to resume their duties in Bombay on the re-opening of the offices to-morrow. The students who belong to the Elphinstone College and the Technical School, envying the lot of those of the St. Xavier and Wilson colleges, submit to their fate by leaving this to be present on the re-opening of their academies to-morrow.

IN the French Chamber, yesterday, a month's vote on account was agreed to by 478 to 55 votes. The credit for the expenses incurred in connection with the Tsar's visit was voted by 495 to 21, after an amendment asking for 4,000,000f. for the unemployed had been rejected by 346 to 138.

THE BYRAMJEE BUILDING AT NAOSARI.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

NAOSARI, JAN. 3.

The Byramjee Sirvai building for the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Madresa was formally opened yesterday, with great eclat by the Dewan Bahadur Shrinivasrao Iyanger before a very large gatherin of ladies and gentlemen, upwards of fifteen hundred being present and following the proceedings with enthusiasm. The secretary, in giving an account of the school and new building, warmly eulogized the munificence of Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Miss Dhunbaiji Cama, Mr. Byramji Sirvai and especially of the Gaekwar's Government, without which the school would not have attained its present highly efficient condition, or secured a handsome permanent habitation. The Dewan then formally opened the building with a handsome silver key presented by Mr. Sirvai with the request to open the building. The ceremonial house-warming prayer by the Tata School girls, which excited great interest and attention, was followed by the formal declaration by the Dewan of the building being opened. The annual report was read, and a well-chosen programme of recitations was gone through. After the distribution of prizes the Dewan in an able and eloquent speech dwelt on the munificent liberality of his Highness towards education, whose example was followed by the leading Parsis, especially the Tatas. He congratulated Mr. Sirvai on his handsome contribution to the new building, which would perpetuate his name. He highly praised the intelligence, liberality, and enterprise of the Parsis, and especially their zeal for the advancement of education and their forward position in all walks of life, and the entrance of two of them in the House of Commons. He regretted his Highness' inability to perform this interesting function on account of his tour for administrative purposes in the Kadi division, and expressed himself highly gratified with all he had seen.

A vote of thanks to the Dewan was carried with acclamation, on the motion of Mr. Hormasji Dadabhoy, the Judge, who treated the audience to a livley and humorous speech. The whole ceremony passed off most successfully. Great credit is due to Mr. Sirvai for his timely liberality.

The speech delivered by Dewan Bahadur S. Smurasahaghavn Iyengar, C.I.E., Dewan of Baroda, was as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,—I beg to tender to the authorities of this institution my thanks for their kind invitation to me to be present here this evening. It is always gratifying to be able to assist, in however small a degree, in festivities of this character connected with an important educational institution; but this occasion has been of special value, in that it has afforded me an opportunity for making acquaintance with so many distinguished men of a great community I am sure we all miss very much on this interesting occasion the genial and inspiring presence of his Highness the Maharajah Saheb. The keen interest which his Highness has always evinced in the advancement of education and the ready and liberal support which he at all times has accorded to educational institutions, and to this institution, in particular, are known to all and have been acknowledged by Mr. Byramji in terms of grateful appreciation. Your pleasure, as well as mine, would therefore have been greatly enhanced if the function of declaring open this magnificent edifice, in which we are assembled, were performed by his Highness instead of by myself. His Highness, however, has, for some time, been touring in the Kadi division for the purpose of making enquiries, at first hand, as regards the condition of the people and the administrative improvements needed, and he could not arrange to come to Nowsari, at this time, without great inconvenience. The school, in connection with which we are assembled here to-day, can well claim to be one of the oldest not only in his Highness' dominions, but in Western India, having been started in the year 1856, i.e., in the pre-university days—a year or two before the dark days of the Mutiny.

The secretary, in his opening sentences, alluded to the opposition it excited from the orthodox people of the Parseen community at the time it was started. It seems hardly credible that this could have been urged not very many years ago in a community, which is justly regarded as the most forward and progressive of Indian communities, which has taken advantage of Western education to the fullest extent which has for years been sending young men by scores to Europe for education, which has contributed recruits to the Civil Service, the legal, engineering, medical and other professions, recruits who have acquitted themselves with great credit and which above all has achieved the unprecedented honor of contributing two members successively to the British House of Commons. The opposition however appears to have been extinguished soon after it was raised with a rapidity which we who often find old Adam to be too strong for young Melanethons might well envy. Within five years after the school was started, a benevolent Parsee lady made a munificent donation of Rs. 10,000 for a building for the school. The significance of this can hardly be overrated. It is a familiar experience in most communities, and I have no doubt it is the same in the Parsee community also, that the conservative elements of society find their strongest support among the ladies, and the presence of so many cultured ladies at this gathering is good and sufficient security—if security were needed, that orthordox opposition has not the slightest chance of lifting its head again against educational institutions. Even in Nowsari orthodoxy has wisely accommodated itself to the spirit of the new age by accepting the inevitable and limiting its efforts to securing that, alongside of secular instruction, provision shall be made for religious instruction and moral training also. Mr. Kanga has just described to us how this institution, after successively passing through the perils of infancy, has shot up into healthy and vigorous manhood, and I notice with great pleasure the valuable services rendered to the institution, at a most critical time, by my friend Mr. Kanga and Mr. Kershasji Rustomji Dadabhoy, whose presence here is, I have no doubt, a source of a great gratification to you as it is to me. As head-master of the institution and, in later years, as Subah of Nowsari, it fell to his lot to shape its future destiny, and, under his able and sympathetic guidance, its efficiency and prosperity were assured. Year after year the results of the examinations held have been very satisfactory and highly creditable to the teaching and supervising staff. Many of the students educated in the school have attained university distinctions, and are already beginning to distinguish themselves in the various professions they have adopted. Every man is apt to recall with pleasure his schoolboy days and cherish, in grateful memory, the institutions within whose walls he received the rudiments of knowledge and the benefaction, but for whose liberal donations the establishment and maintenance of the institutions would have been impossible, and every school may look back with pride on the successful careers of those whose names were once on its rolls. The fame of the Parsee community for public benefactions deservedly stands high. The stream of their liberality has been in Bombay and other places one continuous and uniform flow, bringing with it enlightenment to the ignorant, succour to the poor, and comfort to the sick. Their princely charities have won for them the respectful admiration of every race and creed in India. The small town of Nowsari, the Indian home of the Parsee community, has not been behind others in maintaining, in this respect, the traditional reputation of the community. The list of donors to the school is a long yes assumed such a lively appearance as it presents now. Everywhere new faces are to be seen. More than a-fourth of the congregation at the morning service on the New Year's Day in the Church of our Lady Senhorada Mar were arrivals from Bombay, either scared away by the bubonic plague or come here to enjoy the Christmas holidays. The Vania-vad, which street is the residence of Bunniahs, is crowded, upwards of 250 Bunniahs, some of them being merchants and lawyers' clerks, sharebrokers, opium and cotton speculators, metahs, &c., having arrived here from Bombay within the past week or ten days. Every one of a large number of houses which had remained for a long time unoccupied has been let on heavy rent or occupied by its owner who has to thank his stars for not having got rid of it simply to avoid the payment of the annual *zopdi* (house-tax). Many persons in Bombay have been desirous to breathe the cool and healthy atmosphere of this place, but are not able to secure dwelling accommodation. A large number of tailors, carpenters, weavers, blacksmiths, and dhobies who have flocked here intend to prolong their stay until the plague in Bombay shows signs of disappearing. As to clerks and metahs who have come here, they stand between two fires, the plague and dismissal from service, and such of them as have not been able to obtain leave to absent from their places and cannot afford to give up their bread, reluctantly leave this place to-night to resume their duties in Bombay on the re-opening of the offices to-morrow. The students who belong to the Elphinstone College and the Technical School, envying the lot of those of the St. Xavier and Wilson colleges, submit to their fate by leaving this to be present on the re-opening of their academies to-morrow.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth, go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to the taste, it produces natural quiet sleep by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pains, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other cause. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine Dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

SOME MISSIONARY REPORTS.

A SERIES of reports from British missionaries in India with respect to the famine in that country has been obtained by Reuter's Agency. A deplorable description is given of the destitution of the people in several districts, and the distress, it is stated, is extending, with every prospect of becoming more intense. The general impression is that distress will be most severe in the Central Provinces, in the Punjab, and in the North-West Provinces. "The Government," said the Foreign Secretary of the London Missionary Society, "is doing its best by relief works, but these mainly provide for able-bodied men, and others, including women and children, are in danger of perishing of hunger." The C.M.S. says that the chief fact of importance is that so far they have received no appeals from their responsible officials in India. The Society has anticipated appeals for help by authorising each of its five central committees in India to use £500 from the balance of the old famine fund relief for purposes.

THE PHILANTHROPIC MOVEMENT IN RUSSIA.

It is stated in Court circles in St. Petersburg that, by desire of the Tsar, a grand concert is to be given this month in aid of the sufferers from the famine in India, and that a similar concert will be organised for the benefit of the destitute in Montenegro.

The following telegrams are published:—

Odessa, Dec. 10.—Orders have been received from St. Petersburg that donations of breadstuffs for the sufferers by the famine in India are to be conveyed carriage free from all parts of the empire to Odessa. There will also be free transport from Odessa to India in the ships of the Volunteer Fleet.—*Times.*

Odessa, Dec. 11.—The *Bourse Gazette* and one or two of its leading contemporaries now strongly deprecate the proposed scheme for rendering Russian aid to India. "Charity begins at home," says the Russian financial journal, "and it should be remembered that our own country is still suffering from the grievous effects of the famine of 1891-92, and of the late cholera visitation." It would be unjust to question the purely charitable and humanitarian instincts which have prompted the majority of the contributors to the *Novoe Vremya* and other funds in aid of the Indians, but there is nothing of a spontaneously benevolent nature in the general inception of the movement promoted by M. Suvorin, of that paper, and other notoriously Anglophobe Russian journalists and politicians. The Russian-Indian Famine Fund shows already signs of becoming a fiasco.—*Daily News.*

The able writer on "Indian Affairs" in the *Times* (Dec. 14) says:—The subscription opened in Russia for the relief of the Indian famine has been regarded in this country as a genuine and spontaneous offering springing from an impulse of the Russian heart. But the facts of the case impose alike on the Indian authorities and on the British nation a certain amount of caution in dealing with such offers, whether proceeding from the City of London, or from Calcutta, or from St. Petersburg. The Russian people may rest assured that the reserve which the Indian Government feels bound to maintain towards offers of outside aid arises from no ungracious failure to appreciate the kindly motives which prompt them. The Indian Government has to consider, not only whether it is justified in accepting philanthropic foreign offers, but also the effect of foreign aid on the indigenous system of relief. We must remember that in India there is nothing corresponding to our Poor-laws. The relief of the aged and the suffering and the needy is conducted on ordinary lines by the automatic operation of caste. In spite of certain harsh features, which serve as safe guards against the abuse of caste benevolence, the caste system acts as a charity organisation society on a scale and with a minuteness of supervision unknown in any other part of the world. It has to deal with a densley-crowded population of two hundred millions of peasants, whose food supply depends from year to year on a few inches more or less of rainfall. No Poor-laws could do for the Indian population what the caste system quietly and efficiently performs, and the Government may well shrink from anything which might tend to shift the duty of normal relief in India from the caste to other shoulders. It is only when the necessity for relief increases so abnormally as to pass beyond the control of the caste organisation that the State steps in, for it well knows that every native institution in India is vitally injured when interfered with by Government. The Indian village commune lost much of its old strength under the Mogul Emperors, and the caste system constantly tends to disintegrate in contact with Western education and British administrative methods. The caste organisation, however, by no means represents the whole indigenous resources of India in dealing with scarcity. For the intensely charitable spirit of the Indian religions acts outside as well as inside the caste. Every Hindu landowner, merchant, and tradesman regards almsgiving as a daily duty. In time of public distress this practice expands into a general system of relief, whose extent can only be appreciated by those who have seen its action during the famine. We venture to say that there is not a Hindu landowner within the striken area at this moment who does not relieve a crowd of applicants at his door every morning. It may not, from a European intelligent system of charity, but it is the ancient one which the people understand, and which, in spite of its apparently indiscriminate character, they seldom abuse. It is a system capable of expansion in a rapid and effective way, and upon methods into which the principle of self-help enters. A Hindu landowner or banker or merchant not only gives freely during famine to the crowd at his gate; he also finds work for the villagers who have been driven from their sun-baked fields, and he buys up stores of grain to resell at low rates to the struggling classes, whom pride keeps aloof from the dole. Such relief goes straight to the zenanas which we in earlier famines found so difficult to reach, and whose inmates starved to death rather than demean themselves by coming forth to seek public charity. Experience has taught us how to bring State aid to this class by means of native committees, without either indiscriminate charity, on the one hand, or wounding the self-respect of the recipients on the other. But in this respect also the Government wisely refrains from interfering so long as the distress is within the control of private benevolence. . . . . If we have emphasised the indigenous aspects of private effort in time of scarcity it is from no lack of appreciation of the exertions and sacrifices made by our own countrymen in India, whether official or commercial, planters or missionaries. It is not too much to say that every English bungalow becomes a centre of relief. But, after all, it is on the vast mass of native wealth that the Government mainly rely, not alone for private benevolence, but also for those innumerable expenditures of capital upon hamlet works, which goes so far to stave off the extremity of famine. The only little moral which we would venture to draw is this—that the Indian Government acts wisely in calling forth the utmost resources of Indian benevolence before it sanctions appeals for foreign aid. The task of dealing with recurring scarcity is a task imposed by the physical conditions of the country on the Indian people. The British rulers would be alike culpable if they intervened at too early a period to allow full scope for the resources of native effort, or if they delayed interference too long and failed to support native effort, by prompt State aid and by the grateful acceptance of international philanthropy. Of two things we may be sure. The Government of India will not appeal for external help unless it finds itself compelled to do so, and, if that necessity arises, it may rely on a general response.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION IN THE STATES.

BY THE DEFEATED SILVERITE CANDIDATE.

IN the current number of the *North American Review* is an article by Mr. Bryan, the defeated Silverite candidate for the American Presidency, entitled "Has the Election Settled the Money Question?"

Mr. Bryan freely admits the great importance of the issue at stake, and points out that for the first time during this generation the money question has been the paramount point of a Presidential campaign as a rule, he remarks, "the moneyed interests have looked after our financial policy while the rest of the people have quarrelled over the tariff." He thinks that the result of the contest instead of being discouraging, is full of encouragment. When before, he asks, "has a great cause made such rapid progress in so short a time as bimetallism has made in the Eastern States?" Mr. Bryan declares that the outcome of the election in no way indicates, on the base of the electoral vote, anything to guarantee permanence in the victory for the gold standard. "If our opponents imagine that the bimetallists will be easily defeated in 1900, let them remember that thousands of Republicans have been held to that party thus far by the pledge that their party will try to secure international bimetallism." In conclusion, he says: "The contest for financial independence will go on. 'An American financial policy for the American people' will still be the motto of those who have in this campaign advocated the free coinage of silver on equal terms with gold. We entered the contest with a disorganised army; we emerge from it a united and disciplined force without the loss of a soldier. We are ready for another contest. We shall watch legislation, discuss every movement made by the enemy, and keep before the public the principles for which we contend. We believe that we are right, and, believing that right will finally triumph, we face the future firm in the belief that bimetallism will be restored."

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THE *LONDON GAZETTE.*

THE ARMY.

WAR OFFICE, PALL-MALL, DEC. 15.

2nd Dragoon Guards—Major H Clerk is placed on the temporary half pay on account of ill health; Lieut J O'Hara to be Captain, vice E R Gordon, transferred to 9th Lancers.

9th Lancers—Capt F W Duff retires on retired pay; Capt E R Gordon, from 2nd Dragoon Guards, to be Captain, vice F. W. Duff.

15th Hussars—Capt F J Dalgety resigns his commission.

20th Hussars—Capt A O Jacob to be adjutant, vice Lieut H Bretuner, deceased; Supr Capt N Legge, D S O, to be Captain, vice A O Jacob.

Scots Guards—Lieut the Hon E C Gordon Lennox, from 3rd Bn the Royal Sussex Regt to be Sec Lieutenant, vice A D Campbell, resigned.

Regimental District—Col J Boughey, from half pay, to be Colonel to command the 62nd Regimental District, the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regt, vice Col H Collingwood, retired.

Royal Warwickshire Regt—Major N F A Maunsell retires on retired pay; Capt C de C Etheridge to be Major, vice N. F A Maunsell.

Royal Fusiliers, City of London Regt—Lieut R H M Moody, from 5th Bn the Rifle Brigade the Prince Consort's Own, to be Second Lieutenant, vice B G Price, promoted.

Suffolk Regt—Sergt C E H Wintle, from the Border Regt, to be Second Lieutenant, vice C C R Murphy, promoted.

Princes of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regt—Major W A Chauncy retires from the Service, receiving a gratuity; Capt. A G Cartwright to be Major, vice W Chauncy.

East Surrey Regt—Lt-Col and Brevet-Col R W F Phillips, on completion of his period of service in command of a battalion, is placed on half pay; Major R H W H Harris to be Lieutenant Colonel, vice Brevet Col R W F Phillips.

Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry—Lt Col W Barrington Browne retires on retired pay. Major H P Carden to be Lieutenant Colonel, vice W H Browne.

Hampshire Regt—Capt B H Boucher to be Adjutant, vice Capt F H G Playfair, whose period of service in that appointment has expired.

Welsh Regt—Lt Col H S Holmes, on completion of his period of service in command of a battalion, is placed on half pay. Major R J F Banfield to be Lieutenant Colonel, vice H S Holmes.

Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt—Lieut C G Pack Beresford to be Adjutant, vice Capt E F Venables, whose period of service in that appointment has expired.

Kings Royal Rifle Corps—Capt H A Kinloch to be Major, vice G C Kitson, promoted Lieutenant Colonel on half pay. Capt C J Ryder is placed on temporary half pay on account of ill health.

Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regt—G Monreal, gent from the University of Malta to be Second Lieutenant, vice H G Lynch Staunton, promoted.

Manchester Regt—Sergt G S F Routh, from the Prince Albert's Somersetshire Light Infantry, to be Second Lieut, vice F C Hirst, promoted.

Durham Light Infantry—Major W K Curling retires on retired pay, Capt F C Kenyon Slaney to be Major, vice W K Curling.

Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders—Capt M S Riach is seconded for service as an Adjutant of Volunteers.

Connaught Rangers—Major F Carpenter retires on half pay.

Army Ordnance Department—The date of retirement of Lt Col C E Vansittart, Ordnance Officer Second Class, is Nov. 30, 1896, and not as stated in the *Gazette* of Dec 1, 1896. Capt R Crawford Ordnance Officer Fourth Class, to be Ordnance Officer Third Class, with the substantive rank of Major in the Army, in succession to Lt Col C E Vansittart. Capt H D E Parsons, the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt, Ordnance Officer Fourth Class, is appointed for permanent service under the provisions of Articles 3 and 13, Royal Warrant, June 13, 1896.

Army Pay Department—Staff Paymr and Hon Major R R B Ternan is granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Brevet—Lt Col W H Moberly, the Hampshire Regt, to be Colonel.

Memoranda—Col R W M Whetherell, half pay, is placed on retired pay. The following officers, from Royal Artillery, continue in their respective appointments.—Lt Cols L G Fawkes, Prof R M Academy; T Perrott, Chief Instructor School of Gunnery; and J R J Jocelyn, Member of the Ordnance Committee. Qmr and hon Lieut D Clarke, the King's Liverpool Regt, is granted the honorary rank of Captain Subadar Major Kalu Thapa, Sardar Bahadur, Indian Army is granted the honorary rank of Captain.

The following memorandum, signed by Major Gen Colebridge Grove, Military Secretary, has been issued on the subject of first appointments:—"A candidate having a special family or territorial connection with a regiment may, when fully qualified for a commission, apply to the Military Secrtary to be appointed to that regiment, and such consideration as can be afforded will be given to his application. If approved, and if the interests of the service admit of it, he will be permitted to wait six months for an opportunity of being appointed to the regiment he applies for, but most understand that by doing so he loses Army seniority. If desirous of thus waiting, he must state this when making application for a regiment. After a candidate has once been gazetted on first appointment no application for a transfer will be entertained save under the most exceptional circumstances. When the family or territorial claims of different candidates for the same regiment are evenly balanced, the first consideration will be given to those highest on the list in their final Sandhurst examination, or in their Militia or University examination, as the case may be. All candidates must clearly understand that while their wishes will be met as far as possible, they will be posted to vacancies as demanded by the interests of the service."

Major Gen Sir R. Harrison presided at the lecture on the "Campaign of the Pyrenees, 1813," given by Col. F. Adam before the Aldershot Military Society on Dec 15. There was a large attendance. Col. F. Adam gave a graphic description of the 1813 campaign, and applied the lessons taught by it to the defence of the North West frontier of India. The Ordnance Commission of 1874 recommended that our line should be advanced beyond the Indus. This view was adopted by the Government of India in 1875, and a commencement was made by the occupation of Quetta. Since then we had gradually but surely progressed. Chitral was a point of great importance. It commanded roads leading to the Baroghil Pass in the East to the Dora Pass in the West. It overlooked Badakshan, which the Russian were so anxious to get hold of, and took in flak any force issuing from Cabul on to Peshawar. He recommended the addition of a strong pioneer corps and the increased mountain artillery instead of field artillery. A discussion followed.

On Dec. 10 the newest "Maxim," which can discharge four 9lb. projectiles in less than three seconds, was exhibited by the inventor at the Royal United Service Institution. Visitors were assured that the specimen shown was the first fully automatic gun above 1lin. which had been an unqualified success. An expert gunner with it could fire four 9lb. shots in a shade under three seconds, without even so much as taking his eye of the object to be attended to, or his finger off the trigger.

Speaking on the 15th inst. at the prize distribution to the Clamorgan Volunteer Artillery, at Cardiff, Major-Gen. Sir F Grehfell gave important statistics relative to the Volunteer force in the country stating that they had been duly made up at the War Office within the last few days, and this was the first occasion on which they had been published. The total number of efficients in the Volunteer force was 229,531. This was an increase of 4648 on the figures of 1895. The increase in proficients was 196, and the increase of those who had earned the tactical grant was 97 over last year. The total number present at inspection showed an increase of 4987. The decreases were as satisfactory as the increases, the falling-off in non-efficients being 268. Dealing with artillery alone, the speaker said that the total efficient were 41,899, showing an increase of 1191, and the increase in those enrolled was 879. The increase of those at inspection was 770, and there was a decrease in non-efficients of 312. The total of 41,899 efficients in the artillery ranks was the highest figure yet reached—a fact which he regarded as highly satisfactory.

THE NAVY.

APPOINTMENTS.

Captains—F R Boardman, C B, to Howe undated; H L Fleet, to Magdala, Jan 1.

Commander—A H Smith Dorrien, to Alacrity, Jan 1.

Lieutenants—S Nicholson, to St George, Dec 11; the Hon S Hawke, F M Leake, L W Brownell, B R S Wister, W Hamilton, and A K Jones, to Amphion, when commissioned, Jan 7; J C Sealy, to Mersey; A Kirke, to Dreadnought, Jan 1; E S Fitzherbert, to Vernon; F G Bird, to Rodney, Dec 16; E F Bruen, to Benbow, Jan 4; L S Stansfeld, to Victory, Oct 14.

Sub Lieutenants—Q C A Crauford, to Amphion, Jan 7; C P Ryan, to Daring, Jan 1.

Midshipmen—C E Stainer, RNR, to be Acting Sub-Lieutenant on Supplementary List, Oct 31; A K Betty, H S Monroe, F C Fisher, and A Begg, to Active; R Collins, G G C Wood-Martin, S H Tennyson, and G P Leith, to Volage; R G Hobson and M R Best, to Champion; M G Newton, H Haire Foster, and A E Ruxton, to Calypso, Dec 17.

Fleet Engineers—F G Whitaker, to Howe; C J North, to Warspite, undated; W Nicklin, to be placed on the Retired List, Dec 2.

Staff Engineer—J W Agnew, to Pembroke, for Dido, Nov 13

Chief Engineer—J J Carey, to Amphion, Jan 7 1897

Engineers—J B Huddy, to Howe, undated; D Hatelle, to Vivid, undated; A R Pattison, to Victory, Oct 17; H G Andrews, to Amphion; R A Hunter, to Victory, Jan 7; C Laughton, to Victory, undated

Assistant Engineers—D H W Bain, to Howe, undated; W J Ford, to Amphion, Jan 7

Staff Surgeons—D T Hoskyn, to Centurion, H R Osborne, to Hermione, Dec 17

Surgeons—F W Stericker, to Amphion, Jan 7; J F Hall, to Royal Sovereign, Dec 17.

Chaplains—The Rev S S A Bayley, to Alexandra, Dec 11; Rev E H Good, MA, to Howe, undated.

Fleet Paymaster—H W Paul, to Duke of Wellington, Jan 1.

Paymaster—H W Braddon, to Amphion Jan 7.

Assistant Paymaster,—L A Bebb and L E Tier to Vivid; G L Clarke, to Wildfire; and W. Gask, to Pembroke, Dec 12; C E Lynes, to Amphion, Jan 7.

Clerk—W A Brown, to Dreadnought, Dec 17.

Gunners—A Northcott, to Howe; W H Sparks, to Vernon, for torpedo duty at Horsea Range; W T Ovenden, to Pembroke, for torpedo duties in Chatham Dockyard; R Reserve, Dec 10. W Carr to Victory, additional, for duty in Mars; W H Loveless, to Excellent instructing gunner on Staff, Dec 23.

Boatswains—J Coleman, J Rees, and W T Langmaid, to Howe, undated; T Johnson, to Victory, additional, for Mars.

Chief Carpenter—J T Berry, to Howe, for Halbowline yard undated.

Carpenters—J J Collins and A J Bowles (a), to Vivid additional, for duty in Furious; T S Weston, to Howe, undated.

COASTGUARD.

Chief Officers—F S Beadle, to Alexandra, additional, for Stonehouse Coastguard Station and R N R Battery; R Tozer to Alexandra, additional, for Penzance Coastguard Station and R N R battery; C Johnson, to Alexandra, additional, for Fowey Coastguard Station and R N R battery; J Lowday, to Galatea, additional, for Lynn Coastguard Station and R N R battery; R Cornelstone, to Alexandra, additional, for Lulworth Coastguard Station Jan 3; R Winstanley, to Galatea, Dec. 11.

THE scheme for sending a German commercial mission from Bremen to China and Japan has (says the *Times'* Berlin correspondent) aroused so much interest in industrial circles in Germany that the number of persons taking part in the mission will probably be increased from four or five, as originally intended, to nine or ten. The iron industry will probably take little part in the expedition, while the manufacturers of chemical products have declined to contribute to it. As far as China is concerned, the management of the mission will be entrusted to Consul Knapp, of Canton. The expedition will leave Bremen towards the end of January.

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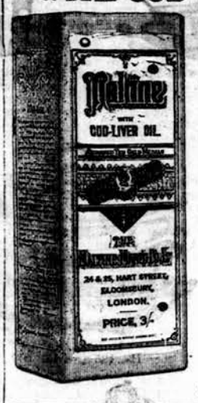

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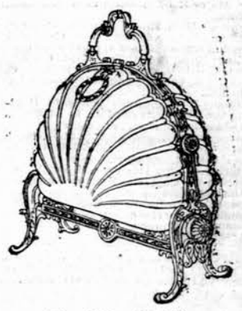

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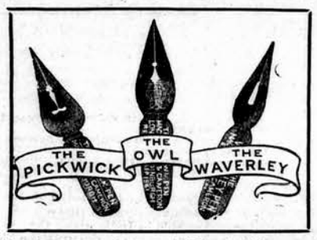

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